هكذا من الأصل

May 15, 1997/Page

Iraqi Kurd Group Drives PKK Out of Arbil

DUBAI — An Iraqi Kurd faction backing a Turkish incursion has driven out Turkish Kurd separatists from the main city of Arbil in northern Iraq, an aid worker in the city said Monday.

The worker, contacted by telephone from Dubai, said the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) was expelled in street clashes on Friday. Three PKK members were "executed," some 48 arrested and another 50 fled from Arbil.

(Contd on Pg. 14)



16 PAGES, PRICE 200 RIALS

VOL. XIX; 38; TUESDAY MAY 20, 1997; ORDIBEHESHT 30, 1376; MOHARRAM 13, 1418

Israeli Navy Destroys Lebanese Boat Off South Lebanon

TEL-AVIV — An Israeli Navy ship blew up a Lebanese boat off the southern Lebanese coast early Monday, killing one person, the Israeli Army said.

The Israelis fired at the vessel and sank the vessel as it approached the patrol boat around dawn off the coast near the town of Naqoura in the Israeli-controlled buffer zone in southern Lebanon, an Israeli Army spokesman said.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Iran, Japan Joint Winners of Cannes's Golden Palm

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan jointly won the Cannes Festival's top



KIAROSTAMI

Golden Palm Prize on Sunday.

Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami was rewarded for his film "Tam-e Gilas" (the taste of cher-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Presidential Candidates Should Heed National Interests

FOCUS

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Over 2,000 Iranian and foreign reporters, cameramen and photographers will cover the seventh presidential election in Iran on Friday.

Some of the foreign newsmen who have already arrived in Iran said that they have previously covered tens of elections across the world, but this is the first time they witness so much enthusiasm among the people of a country for participation in an election.

Another Western reporter noted that before coming to Iran, he presumed, due to disinformation against the Islamic Republic of Iran, that the Iranian presidents take office through appointment. But, he added, now he fully realized that those assumptions have been quite baseless.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, addressing a group of Iranian and foreign reporters, underlined that there would be no change in Iran's foreign policy with the new president in office.

In another development, following a short pause in the electioneering of Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri, his election headquarters announced that, due to some rumors that the grand Leader of the Islamic Revolution has expressed new attitudes toward the candidates and the election, the hojjatoleslam met with the grand Leader to be informed of his latest views.

The Leader, at the meeting, underlined that there has been no change in his attitude towards the candidates and that Hojjatoleslam Reyshahri should do whatever he considers as his religious obligation, his headquarters spokesman added.

Some observers who closely follow the political events taking place on the eve of the presidential election believe that despite the guidelines and the course of action recommended by the grand Leader, unfortunately, some supporters of a certain candidate do not observe the moral principles

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Multilateral Cooperation Key to Regional Stability

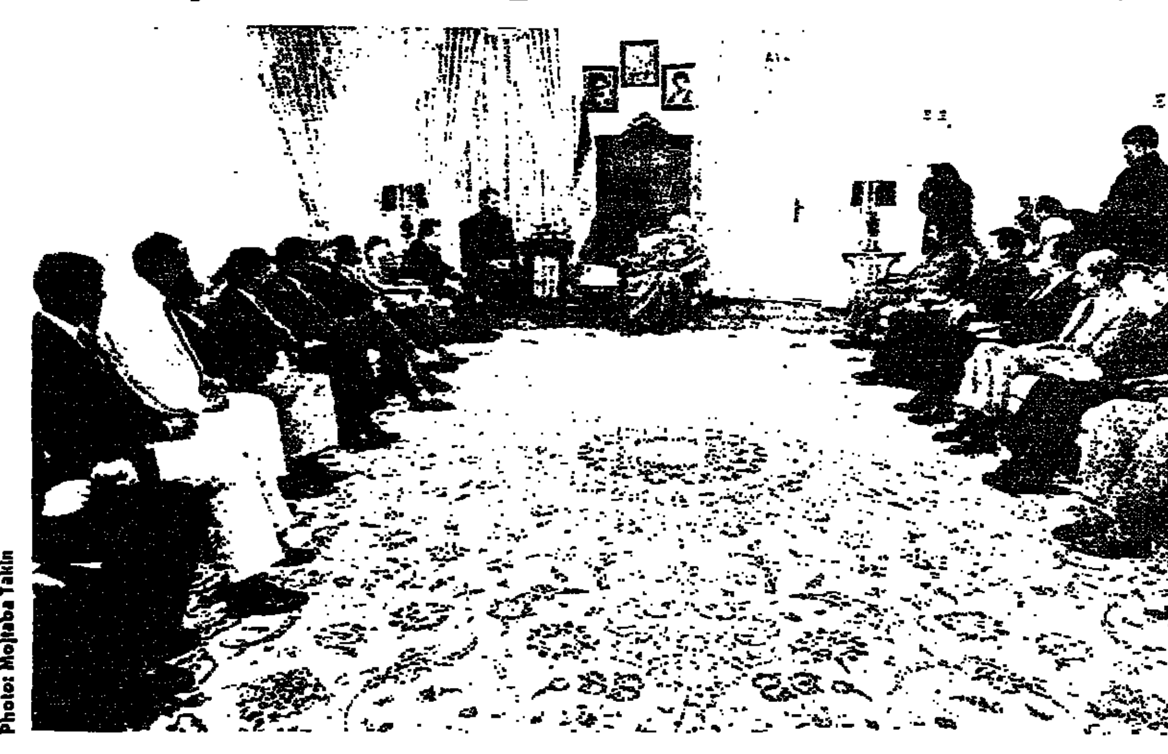


Photo: Mojtaba Takin

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here on Monday emphasized the necessity for strengthening regional organizations and called for more support for the organizations newly founded in the region.

Receiving secretary general of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and the participants in the 3rd Consultative Meeting of Executive Heads of Asian Subregional Organizations and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), recently held here, the president stressed that promotion of regional organizations will not only help economic development of the regional countries but also preservation of regional security, peace and stability.

President Rafsanjani lauded the move taken by UN and ESCAP for holding a meeting among the regional organizations and called such meetings as good venues for the exchange of views.

Touching on Iran's experiences in commerce, transportation, poverty eradication, development of human resources and investment, President Rafsanjani noted that the

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Turkish Army Overrode Erbakan on Iraq Incursion

Compiled From Dispatches

The Turkish Army did not inform Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan of an ongoing military incursion into northern Iraq in advance, fearing that information could be leaked to separatist Kurds targeted in the operation, a Turkish diplomat said Monday.

Quoting a top military source, retired Ambassador Sukru Elekdag told the Istanbul daily *Milliyet* that the pro-secular military, which has been involved in a bitter row with Erbakan over Islamization, left the government uninformed of the Iraq campaign.

The military said on Sunday that nearly 1,000 PKK members had been killed in fighting since last Wednesday when around 10,000 troops poured into north-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

TEHRAN TIMES
TEHRAN TIMES NEWS SERVICE
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Fax No. 8808214
ISSN 1017-9410
Address: No. 32, Koucheh Bimeh
Nejatollahi Ave. [former Villa]
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Printed at Kayhan

In the Name of God

It is not (attributable to) Allah that He should lead a people astray after He has guided them; He even makes clear to them what they should guard against; surely Allah knows all things.

(HOLY QORAN) (9:115)

OPINION

ECO, ASEAN, ESCAP Cooperation, Indispensable to Regional Development

Officials from Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) attended a two-day consultation meeting here to explore avenues for strengthening inter-regional cooperation.

The compulsions of the post-Cold War era have indeed necessitated the convergence of regional groupings specially in the Third World.

The countries belonging to the above three organizations face similar problems, have complementary economies, and are sympathetic towards each other, for they have all experienced colonialism in one way or another, and, therefore, they do not want to exploit each other.

In the emerging world order, trade has unfortunately become a tool in the hands of bullying powers who use it as an instrument to blackmail the Third World countries.

Today the abuse of trade as a pressure tool is so extensive that the industrialized powers target the independence and national sovereignty of the Third World countries through sanctions diplomacy.

Some of the Third World countries' dependence on the developed world is so deep-rooted that they are ready to compromise their independence in order to survive as a state in international community.

The Third World countries have only one choice before them, i.e., reduction of dependence and reliance on bullying powers. But they will not be able to reduce their dependence without substituting the reliance on industrialized world with other sources among themselves.

The idea of exploring new avenues for more cooperation among the members of the above-mentioned organizations is welcome, but before embarking on inter-regional cooperation, each regional organization must find out the reasons for the slow pace of regional cooperation within the framework of the existing organizations in its relevant region. Probably the same problems—if not duly attended—will hamper cooperation between regional organizations.

Moreover, in order to reach an ideal level of cooperation, the minimum possible areas of cooperation must be identified in the first place and necessary measures taken to guarantee a meaningful cooperation in those areas. Rhetorical statements will not help.

Nateq Nouri: Presidential Campaign Is Not Power Struggle

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri in Shiraz Monday rejected the presidential campaign as a battlefield and said that it is an opportunity provided for the candidates to outline their future plans.

Meeting a group of ulema in Shiraz, southern province of Fars, Nateq Nouri, also a candidate to run for the 7th presidential elections slated for next Friday, said that unfortunately certain groups stir up social atmosphere by tarnishing the image of candidates. Criticizing such activities, he warned that creating uncertainty and skepticism towards the ulema among the youth would be a irreparable loss that will not be retrieved easily.

Majlis speaker further pointed out that he is to run for the elections because he feels it a responsibility and that he is determined to prevent revival of Mashrutiyat era (Constitutionalism Movement) during which the ulema were isolated and the country entrapped by the tyrannical regime of Shah.

Rejecting the idea that the ulema are monopolists and that they oppose the reconstruction activities, he said that the experience indicates the endeavors the Majlis and ulema has made to follow the reconstruction pace.

Commitment to Velayat-e Faqih, foresight on foreign policy and experience in executive affairs are among other characteristics the next president should enjoy, he said.

Vaezi Receives Russian Ambassador

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — A message from Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov to his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, was handed to Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs, Mahmoud Vaezi Monday.

Primakov in his message which was handed to Vaezi by Russian Ambassador here, Sergei Tertiyakov, expressed satisfaction over the positive trend of Tajik peace talks and called the role of Iran and Russia vital for the agreements reached during the talks.

Regarding the next round of peace negotiations between the Tajik government and the opposition, which is due to be held in Tehran in a near future, the Russian foreign minister expressed hope that the talks would speed up restoration of a national reconciliation in the civil-war stricken republic.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister, underlined the need for continuation of Tehran-Moscow cooperation to help settle the crisis in Tajikistan and other regional disputes.

Describing as fruitful the recent visit of Iranian President Akbar



Hashemi Rafsanjani to Tajikistan, Vaezi underlined continuation of Iran's mediation efforts to establish peace and stability in Tajikistan.

The two sides also discussed issues relating to the crisis in Afghanistan.

Law Enforcement Forces Preserve Security of Poll Stations

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Through setting up of election security headquarters across Tehran, the Law Enforcement Forces will preserve the security of over 3,000 poll boxes, Commander of the Law Enforcement Forces of Tehran, Brigadier General Abulfathi said here Monday.

Speaking to reporters, Abulfathi added that the headquarters will help enforce rules and regulations and prevent any violation of law in the forthcoming presidential elections slated for May 23.

Since the beginning of the presidential campaign the Law Enforcement Forces of Tehran have detained 281 violators of the election code, he said.

Use of placards, wall prints, holding demonstrations or caravans in support of the candidates as well as tearing up posters are considered unlawful and the offenders will be imprisoned from 3 to 30 days.

Iran Calls For Int'l Cooperation to Clarify Fate of 20,000 Iranians

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The spokesman for the commission in charge of Iranian POWs, Brigadier General Mohammad Balar, called on international organizations to exert pressure on the Iraqi government to clarify the status of 20,000 Iranian nationals.

According to IRNA, the brigadier general who was interviewed by Persian daily, *Iran*, on Monday, added that the Iraqi government should give an explicit response to Iran's request on the fate of this group of Iranians.

He said this number of Iranians have disappeared between the years 1979-1988, in the course of the Iraqi assault against Iran, and were captured by the Iraqi regime.

He added that the Iranian government in a move to show its good will has released about 1,000 Iraqi POWs in two stages unilaterally but, the Iraqi government has not reciprocated Iran's measure.

The spokesman for the commission also criticized the Iraqi government, especially the Iraqi foreign minister, for not abiding by their promises.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Saeed as-Sahaf in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati in Rabat, Morocco, on the sidelines of the OIC's Qods Committee meeting in March, had promised to take practical steps for the settlement of the issue.

Iran Recognizes Kabila's Leadership

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi here Sunday said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is pleased over the transfer of power to Laurent Kabila in the Democratic Republic of Congo with the least bloodshed.

He expressed hope that Kabila's taking power in that country might end the hardship of its people, IRNA reported.

The Foreign Ministry official noted that as a rule the Islamic Republic respects the will of nations. He expressed hope that Laurent Kabila would brign peace and stability to the country fulfiling also the expectations of the people of Congo.

Iran Successful in Drug Control Programs

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Chairman of the International Narcotics Control Board Hamid Qods said that Iran has been very successful in drug control, IRNA reported.

Speaking after the assembly of the board in Vienna on Sunday, he said international observers had attested to the success of the Islamic Republic in that area.

He said the assembly last week had been very successful and that it had reviewed such issues as international trafficking of drugs and money-laundering of drug sales internationally.

The International Narcotics Control Board is the world's highest agency exercising control on drugs and drug abuse. The agency has power also to regulate national drug requirements for medical purposes as well as issue licenses to individual states for their access to drugs for medical purposes.

Cabinet Reviews Status of Quake-Hit Areas

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's Cabinet reviewed the latest reports on the status of quake-hit areas of Khorasan Province here Sunday. The Cabinet adopted decisions to speed up relief operations and rehabilitation work.

According to IRNA, the Cabinet also determined the level of credits and banking facilities for rehabilitation projects in the province and appreciated the services of the Interior Ministry for the victims of the killer quake in Khorasan.

An earthquake with an intensity of 7.1 degrees on the Richter scale hit Birjand, Qaen and dozens of villages in Iran's Khorasan Province on May 10 taking a toll of over 1,560.

Vaccination of Entire Population Against Hepatitis B Not Necessary

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Health Ministry of Iran rejected the news on necessity of vaccination of the entire population against hepatitis B.

In a statement, the ministry said, "Nowhere in the world is the entire population vaccinated against the disease. Iran is among those few countries which are vaccinating some specific groups of people agaisnt the disease free of charge."

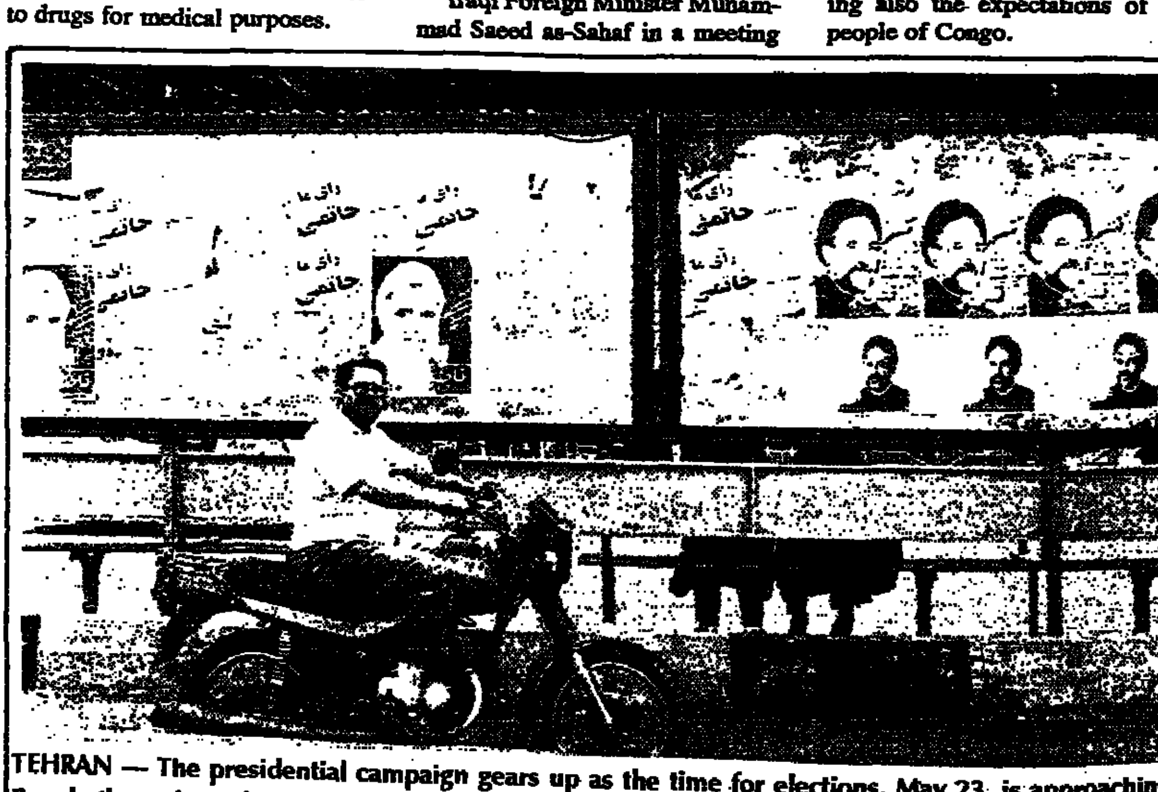
The statement stresses, "The news sources of all the publications which are making publicity for universal vaccination are the Belgian doctors whose country is among the few producers of the vaccine.

Iranians Residing Abroad Invited to Take Part in Elections

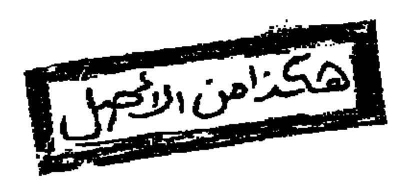
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Culture and Islamic Relations Organization of Iran here Sunday called on Iranians residing in foreign countries to cast their vote for the presidential candidate of their choice, an IRNA report said.

A communique issued by the organization said that the presidential elections mark the nation's participation in the scenes to support the pillars of the political system in Iran.



TEHRAN — The presidential campaign gears up as the time for elections, May 23, is approaching. People throughout the city are trying to get more familiar with their favorite candidates' future plans as war of posters intensifies. The election campaign will end on Thursday.



هكذا من الأصل

Election Update

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Presidential aspirant, Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Khatami: "The inequitable distribution of goods and the swelling in the number of brokers or middlemen is responsible for the price hikes and are obstacles to the realization of justice. In our society inflation and overcharging prevail, but the greater threat to our society would be when the country runs out of oil."

Presidential candidate Hojjatoleslam Mohammadi Reyshahri: "In the election everyone should observe religious obligations because our election, unlike that in the West, does not give lust for power an upper hand over spirituality. Don't disappoint Imam Khomeini by levelling accusations against each other and pitting one against another, because Imam Khomeini's guidelines were not intended for people engaged in squabbling."

• Seyed Reza Zavarei: "Construction and production constitute the most important factors that will strengthen our independence and break the chains of dependence on hegemonist governments. Also, another significant cause of some people's discontent in the way government is run is bureaucratic mismanagement which can be corrected by concerted methods."

• Over 2,000 domestic and foreign reporters, photographers and cameramen have braced themselves up to give coverage to one of the most important elections in the history of the Islamic Republic of Iran, i.e., the May 23 presidential election.

• Reporters talking to the Persian daily *Iran* have expressed surprise over the fervor and enthusiasm showing by people during the campaign period and their widespread interest in knowing the candidates and issues in the coming cutthroat presidential competition.

• A foreign journalist was heard to have remarked: "Despite the fact that I have covered tens of election campaigns across the world, I have not seen people so keen on the fate of an election in their country as is currently the case in the Islamic Republic of Iran."

• A Western journalist told the daily *"Iran"* that prior to his arrival in Iran he was under the influence of propaganda ploys of the Western mass media and presumed that elections here would be no more than an ordinary meeting, adding that "I came to realize that these presumptions were illusory."

• Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, in response to a question if he would accept an offer to serve as first vice president, in case Nateq Nouri wins the post of president, said: "I hope I will never have to dodge any responsibility assigned to me by the Islamic system."

• Head of the Interior Ministry Election Headquarters: 60,000 inspectors of the Interior Ministry and observers of the Guardian Council will supervise the voting booths while 700 executive units will be preparing the ground for the holding of the election.

• Sixteen members of the cabinet of former prime minister Mir Hussein Musavi released a statement announcing their support for the candidacy of Mr. Nateq Nouri and described him as most competent for the post of president.

WEATHER

The Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 27°C
Min. temp. 13°C

Partly cloudy with dust and wind and scattered showers

Warmest Point:
Nikshahr 43°C

Coldest Point:
Firoozkouh 4°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	39	Vienna	24
Istanbul	—	Moscow	—
Rome	23	Madrid	18
Athens	—	Abu Dhabi	38
London	17	Karachi	—
Paris	19	New Delhi	39
Frankfurt	22	Kuwait	43

Private Sector Investment in Kish on the Rise

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Managing Director of Kish Free Trade Zone, Mohammad Reza Yazdanpanah, announced that the volume of investment of the private sector in Kish island amounted to 750 bn rials at the end of 1375 (1996), adding that the figure is predicted to rise to 1650 bn rials by the end of the current Iranian year 1376 (1997).

He said on Monday that the private sector has so far created 91,000 sq mts of commercial space in Kish to be used as bazaars, shops, etc., adding that 64,000 sq mts more are under development. He calculated the investment value of the added space to 250 billion rials once ready for occupancy.

Yazdanpanah said at present the private and government sectors are currently developing some 150,000 sq mts of space for accommodation by business establishments in the island, adding that over 2,000 rooms are already available for occupancy in hotels, motels and villas.

The Kish managing director further said that private sector investment in housing projects in Kish is growing, and that some 2,000 residential units have been built in the island.

He said a 15 billion rial project for construction of multi-purpose recreational jetty providing marital entertainment, yachting and equipped with restaurants, aquarium, etc., is in the offing.

Committee on Management Technology in Developing Countries Starts Work

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Minister of Culture and Higher Education, Hashemi Golpaygani yesterday opened the meeting of the consultancy committee for drawing up the basics of management technology in developing countries.

In his inaugural address, the minister said appropriate economic development is not feasible minus introduction of a change in the national technological development structure.

Golpaygani said the ministry of culture and higher education has recognized the expansion of relation with international bodies and countries, especially the regional countries as the principal measures for expansion of the sciences and technology.

He added that holding of the four day meeting, sponsored by Iran Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, is in line with this aim.

The minister said his ministry has submitted a plan for creation of a High Council of Sciences and Technology to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, suggesting how to improve the organizational structure of sciences and technology in the country. He added that the plan is going through its final stage of being approved.

Coordination Council of IPO on Presidential Election

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Coordination Council of the Islamic Propagation Organization released a statement calling on people to show a widespread turn out in the seventh presidential election Friday May 23.

The statement described participation in the election as fateful and Islamic duty and urged people to elect one who believes in Islam and the values of the Islamic Revolution, in the absolute supremacy of the Supreme Muslim Jurisprudent, in struggle against global imperialism, and in combat against Western cultural incursion.

Part of the statement underlined the following as qualifications which people should bear in mind for electing the fittest candidate: executive management competency, popularity, record of revolutionary struggle, concern for the fate of younger generation, abstaining from luxury, and being committed to enjoin to good deeds and forbid the evil acts.

Iraq Chooses UN Embargo Rather Than Peace With Israel

CAIRO — Iraqi Parliament Speaker Saadun Hammadi said in an interview published Monday that his country twice rejected offers to normalize ties with Israel in exchange for an end to the UN-imposed embargo.

"Two offers were made to Iraq as part of a package deal to lift the embargo in exchange for making peace with Israel," Hammadi told the Egyptian independent weekly newspaper *Al-Osboa*.

"The first offer was made through the Vatican foreign minister who visited Iraq and had closed-door talks with the president, but the president categorically refused," Hammadi said.

Hammadi said the second offer was likewise turned down.

"Iraq cannot accept such deals," he added.

Iraq has been facing UN sanctions since its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Hammadi also reiterated his country's condemnation of Turkey's incursion into northern Iraq where it has been fighting Turkish Kurd separatists since last Wednesday, describing it as "aggression." *(AFP)*

1st Iran-China Economic Seminar to Be Held in Shanghai

Tehran Times Service

BEIJING — The First Seminar on Iran-China Economic Cooperation will be held in Shanghai on May 27, IRNA reported.

Iran's Consul General in Shanghai Ahmad Masoumi-Far said on Monday that the 2-day seminar will review Iran's economic and commercial potentials and explore avenues for expansion of bilateral economic and commercial relations.

Caspian Watch

By F.T. Khoie
Part 2

Russia protested against such unilateral decisions submitting a protest to the UN on 12 October 1994. It pointed out in this document that as long as a new convention had not been signed by Caspian Sea countries the 1921 and 1940 agreements between Iran and Russia had to be respected.

Russia became determined to follow up the idea of a cooperation organization. On 11 and 12 October 1994, an agreement was signed by Russia, Iran, Turkmenistan,and Kazakhstan, in Moscow. Azerbaijan refused to sign the agreement before the situation regarding the Caspian Sea's territorial divisions was clarified. Azerbaijan had also refused to sign another agreement regarding the protection and exploitation of Caspian marine life, proposed by Russia in 1991. All these developments did not escape the attention of the West which noted particularly the sever conflict of interest and opinions among the five nations.

Iran's Positive Contributions to Peace & Progress

Iran on the other hand, has indeed done a grat deal to bring the region's staes together and to help make their interest convergent: it has helped Azerbaijan and Afghanistan to join ECO (Economic Cooperation Organizatin), increasing the number of ECO member-nations to 10 with a total populations of about 300 million living over an area of about 7 million square kilometers. ECO's strategic aim is to create the infrastructures needed for better transportation, communications, banking, insurance and related activities, in the member-countries for facilitating foreign trade. As examples of its achievements, one might point out the railroad connection undertaken by Turkmenistan and Iran: a 295 kilometer section of railway linking Tajan in Turkmenistan to Mashhad in the state of Khorassan, north-east of Iran, through Sarakhs border point. This means linking Central Asia to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean via the Iranian railroad network.

Another is the link from Kerman to Zahedan on the south eastern Iran, already linked to the Pakistani network, and from there to the Indian railroad. yet another, is the connection of the Turkish, Caucausus, Central Asian railroads to that of Pakistan and India via the Iranian network. In this way the Asian network is interconnected, with Iran at the center and its focal point.

Other ECO projects include expressways, a Caspian shipping line, and the ECO bankning and insurance systems. Iran has also signed numerous agreements and treaties with Central Asian states in various fields such as the agreement for the gas pipeline running through Iran, from Turkmenistan to Pakistan and India on the east, to Turkey on the north west, and to Europe via Turkey's southern ports on the Mediterranean. Other negotiations are underway. The general outlook for the future of the region seems to consist of these major elements:

This illegal aggression also restricted Iran's right of shipping in the Caspian Sea, as well as imposition of limitations on Iran's right to drill oil in the Caspian Sea, nor was Iran allowed to invite any third party to do so. It was this level of arrogance and ruthless disregard of the treaties on the part of the Communist rulers of Kremlin that contributed to the eventual downfall and the subsequent devastation of the Soviet empire.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990, significant changes occurred not only in the structure of Soviet territories but in the political state and outlook of almost every country of the world. One of the major developments was the emergence of four new states surrounding the Caspian Sea: the Russian Federation, the Republics of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan; there were now five states including Iran, abutting the Caspian instead of the previous two. Moreover, all the new ex-Soviet republics - including the three republics mentioned - which had been subject to centralized economic and industrial planning, and decision-makings by Kremlin for decades, suddenly realized they needed foreign help, financially and technologically, to be able to organize themselves and develop their resources. There are many countries willing to make use of the opportunity, to penetrate into this huge new world with hundreds of millions of consumers, and enormouse natural resources and potentials.

(To be Contd.)

25.1m Tons of Steel Products Produced

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Some 25.1 million tons of finished steel products have been produced in Iran from the beginning of the First Five-Year Economic Development Plan in 1989 to 1996, it was announced here on Monday.

Planning Executive of Iran's National Steel Company Musa Aghaie Lankarani, said that the total output of the steel mills of Isfahan, Mobarakeh and Ahvaz was 5.3 million tons worth $1.6 billion, IRNA reported.

According to the official, Iran's National Steel Company is striving to increase its annual production capacity by one million ton by the end of the Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan in 1999.



Iran's Oil Minister Arrives in Seoul

Tehran Times Service



TEHRAN - Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh arrived in Seoul Monday on a 4-day visit to hold talks with high ranking South Korean officials.

Tehran and Seoul cooperate in oil industries and South Korea is among purchasers of Iranian oil in East of Asia, IRNA said.

New contracts are expected to be signed during Aqazadeh's visit to Seoul.

Price Indexes of Consumer Goods and Services Increase

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The price indexes of consumer goods and services rose by 3.5 percent during the Iranian month of Farvardin (March 21-April 20, 1997) compared to the preceding month.

The Economic Statistics Department of the Central Bank of Iran reported that the figure shows an increase of 14.9 percent compared to the same month last year, IRNA reported.

The report added that the annual inflation rate reduced considerablly this month compared to the 23.3 percent of Farvardin last year.

The increase in price indexes is due to rise in prices of foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco by 5.1 percent and housing, fuel and electricity by 2.6 percent.

The price indexes which had an upward trend from July 1995 through March 1996, dropped in April and May 1996 but gradually rose in the following months, reaching 510 in March 1997, up by 14.9 percent compared to the same period last year.

The price indexes for garments rose by 1.3 percent, of furniture and household appliances 0.6 percent, of transportation and communications 2.9 percent, health care 6.5 percent, recreation, education and other services 1.5 percents.

Iran's Pavilion Ranks First in Sharjah

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran ranked first at the Sixth International Home Appliances, Decoration and Ornaments Exhibition of Sharjah.

11 countries including the U.S. and a number of European and Arab countries attended the exhibition, IRNA reported.

The pavillion belonging to Tehran's Municipality was awarded for the high quality of goods it had displayed at the exhibition including, hand-woven carpets, handicrafts; sanitary equipment, furniture, tiles, and various kinds of dried flowers.

Iranian Ambassador Meets UAE's Minister

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iranian Ambassador to Abu Dhabi on Sunday met with UAE's Minister of Economy and Commerce Sheikh Fahen al-Qssemi.

In their meeting, the ambassador of Iran and the UAE minister reviewed trade relations between Iran and UAE, and the ways and means for broadening mutual relations.

Kazakhstan Sees First Oil Swap With Iran in May

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A first, landmark oil swap between Kazakhstan and Iran will be completed at the end of May, giving the former Soviet republic much-needed access to oil export markets, the head of state company Kazakh Oil said on Monday.

"On May 29-30, a tanker will anchor at Kharg island in the Persian Gulf, and Kazakhstan will get its first 70,000 tons of oil — the amount it has already shipped to northern Iran," Nurlan Balgimbayev told a news conference in Almaty as quoted by Reuter.

Under the deal, resource-rich but landlocked Kazakhstan started shipping its oil across the Caspian Sea to Iran's Caspian coast last December.

In return, Iran must provide the equivalent amount of crude at its Persian Gulf ports — oil which Kazakhstan then resells on international markets.

"Now we think this project is viable," Balgimbayev said.

The Central Asian country — five times the size of France and with estimated oil reserves of three billion tons — is anxious to break its reliance on neighboring Russia for oil exports.

Balgimbayev said that this year Kazakhstan would swap about one million tons of crude oil with Iran, adding that volumes would grow to five million tons a year in six years.

He said Kazakhstan expected to produce 26.5 million tons (530,000 barrels per day) of oil this year, up from 23.5 million (470,000 bpd) last year.

UAE Oil Income Hits Record in 1996

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) oil export earnings climbed to a record level in 1996 after crude prices hit a 13-year high, official figures in Abu Dhabi showed on Monday.

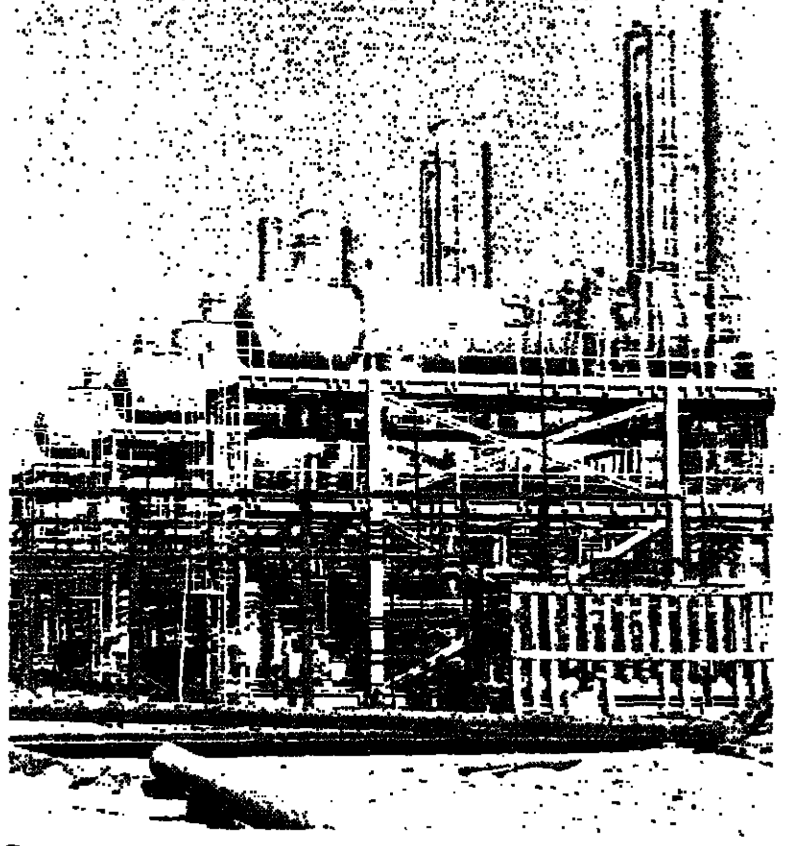
Income peaked at 57 billion dirhams (15.5 billion dollars), allowing the Persian Gulf country to wipe out a budget deficit, widen its trade surplus and boost its economy by more than 10 percent, the Central Bank of UAE said as quoted by AFP.

The 1996 income is 9.8 billion dirhams (2.7 billion dollars) higher than 1995 revenues of 47.2 billion dirhams (12.8 billion dollars) and it replaces a previous record level of 54 billion dirhams (14.7 billion dollars) in 1991.

Oil prices in 1996 shot to their highest level since the oil boom of the early 1980s due to a sharp decline in Western crude inventories, a prolonged cold spell in the Northern Hemisphere and Iraq's absence from the oil market.

Baghdad has been under UN sanctions since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Oil prices averaged nearly 20 dollars in 1996 compared with 16.8 dollars in 1995 and around 18 dollars in 1991, when the UAE and Saudi Arabia hiked production by nearly four million barrels per day (bpd) to make up for the halt of Iraqi and Kuwait crude supplies during the Persian Gulf crisis.



Prices were as high as 30 dollars in the early 1980s but the UAE's production was nearly half its current output of 2.16 million bpd.

"In nominal terms, the oil income of the UAE was the highest since it started commercial oil production," a UAE banker said. "But I don't think the income this year will be as high because prices are expected to be lower."

Despite attempts to diversify its economy, oil sales still provide more than two-thirds of the UAE's total income and this has made its economy and budget highly vulnerable to crude price fluctuations.

The surge in 1996 earnings enabled the UAE to turn a projected budget deficit into a surplus of 3.55 billion dirhams (967 million dollars).

It also combined with an expansion in non-oil sectors to push up the gross domestic product by 10.9 percent to 163.6 billion dirhams (44.57 billion dollars) in 1996 from 147.5 billion dirhams (40.19 billion dollars) in 1995.

The oil sector alone jumped by 20.7 percent, according to the central bank.

"The GDP also reached its highest level in current prices in 1996. Considering inflation, I think there was a real growth of more than six percent in the overall economy," a UAE bank manager said.

The surge in oil prices, coupled with higher exports of liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas, also boosted UAE total exports to 125.8 billion dirhams (34.2 billion dollars) in 1996 from 109.4 billion dirhams (29.8 billion dollars) in 1995.

Despite a sharp rise in 1996 imports, the trade surplus grew to nearly 20 billion dirhams (5.44 billion dollars) from 10.4 billion dirhams (2.83 billion dollars).

Official sources said they expect the oil income to range between 13 billion and 14 billion dollars in 1997, assuming prices of 17-18 dollars a barrel. The economy will also slow down to between five and six percent, they said.

The UAE is among the top 10 oil exporters in the world and its crude reserves of 98 billion barrels account for nearly 10 percent of the global recoverable oil resources.

Gold Traders Adopt Wait-and-See Stance

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Investors adopted a wait-and-see stance in Asian gold trade Monday following Germany's proposal to revalue its gold reserves, dealers said in Singapore.

Gold was trading at 343.70-344.00 U.S. dollars an ounce in mid-afternoon over-the-counter trading in Singapore, compared to a New York close of 344.00-344.30 on Friday, a dealer with a foreign investment house said, AFP reported.

"The market has basically been very quiet, restricted to position covering," the dealer said. "There is no fresh interest and trading volume is very thin. Gold is stuck in a 50-cent trading range."

"Today is a holiday in Switzerland and Germany, and we do not expect any major movement before the New York market opening" he said.

Investors in Asia were more focused on the upcoming U.S. federal reserve decision on interest rates and the movement of regional currencies and less on precious metals, the dealer added.

In Hong Kong, gold closed the morning session Monday at 344.00-344.50 an ounce, after opening at 343.90-344.30.

Germany said Thursday that it aimed to revalue its gold reserves at current market prices to reduce its budget deficit and allow it to participate in the European Monetary Union.

A revaluation would boost the worth of the reserves to about 32 billion dollars from 13.7 billion dollars.

The gold price fell sharply in New York on Friday as the move raised fears of gold sales by central banks. The market speculated that Germany may sell gold to make up for tax shortfalls it announced last week and other central banks would follow suit.

The dealer said the Asian market had taken a wait-and-see approach to the German proposal, noting that German Finance Minister Theo Waigel had pledged not to sell even an ounce of gold following the adjustment.

"I would assume that people's concern would be how the other central banks react," he said. "It is still a long factor. I would assume the banks would not be that eager to sell."

A dealer with a local bullion house said gold was already undervalued, and foresaw limited impact of the German move on prices.

"People are more cautious about taking any gold positions because if they buy and the price doesn't go up, it only adds to their interest payments," he said.

Actual and feared sales by central banks undermined investor confidence and encouraged speculative short-selling of the metal last year. Gold holdings of "all countries," as published by the International Monetary Fund, showed a net fall of 15.2 tons between September and November last year.

The price of gold has since fallen steeply from an average of 387.87 U.S. dollars an ounce during 1996, according to World Gold Council statistics.

India, the world's single biggest consumer of gold, last year consumed more than 500 tons, a record high. Excluding India, Asia's consumption of gold in 1996 reached 827 tons, down five percent from the year before.

هکذا من الأصل

SPORTS SUMMARY

Tehran Times Service

FOOTBALL

Cantona Quits

MANCHESTER, England: Manchester United hero Eric Cantona announced his retirement from the game on Sunday. The Frenchman's shock decision was announced by United chairman Martin Edwards at a hastily convened media conference just two weeks after the French striker celebrated winning his fourth premiership title with the English giants. The controversial 30-year-old, once banned for eight months for attacking a fan, has been the key player in United's domination of English football since his arrival from rivals Leeds in 1992. Cantona, who is currently out of the country on holiday, explained in a prepared statement that he wanted to pursue his interests outside football. Cantona arrived in England five years ago, when he joined Leeds after a trial with Yorkshire neighbors Sheffield Wednesday. He moved to Old Trafford in November of that year for 1.2 million pounds after helping Leeds win the title.

Suker Keeps Real on Track

MADRID: A penalty from Davor Suker moved favorites Real Madrid closer to the Spanish title on Sunday. Real scored a 1-0 win over Valladolid at the Bernabeu. They have an eight-point lead over archrivals Barcelona who play Celta Vigo on Monday. Deportivo la Coruna are in third place despite a disappointing goalless draw at home to Sporting Gijon. They are level on points with Betis who let slip a two-goal lead and had to settle for a 3-3 draw at home against struggling local rivals Sevilla. Reigning champions Atletico Madrid gained a 1-1 draw at Real Sociedad to stay fifth. Three people were arrested after frustrated Hercules Alicante fans attacked visiting Valencia supporters after the home side had been beaten 2-0. At least ten people were injured in the clashes — four of them policemen. Valencia clinched their win, which almost certainly will relegate Hercules, with late goals from Farinos (65) and Vlaovic (73). About 600 Valencia supporters came under fire from missile-throwing home fans inside the stadium after the final whistle and police had to intervene.

Kaiserslautern Rejoin Bundesliga

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany: Kaiserslautern rejoined Germany's top flight on Sunday following their 7-0 thrashing of VFB Luebeck to make up for last year's first-ever relegation from the Bundesliga. Kaiserslautern, nine points ahead of second-placed Hertha Berlin, who have a game in hand, assured their promotion with four matches to go.

Hamburg Sack Magath

HAMBURG, Germany: Hamburg, struggling down in 15th place in the Bundesliga, were reported to have sacked their manager Felix Magath Sunday night. The dismissal followed the side's shock 4-0 home defeat against Cologne. With two matches left to play, Hamburg are now in real danger of relegation since they are just five points clear of third-from-bottom Fortuna Dusseldorf. Magath, 42, a former midfield international, had been in charge at Hamburg since October 1995. He is the fifth manager to be sacked in the Bundesliga this season.

Vigo Star Facing Doping Ban

MADRID: Celta Vigo's Francisco Borja Aguirretxu faces a two-year suspension for doping, having tested positive for drugs after a match in January. Aguirretxu, 28, has not played since the test taken following a game against Valladolid on January 4.

TENNIS

Mary Joe Fernandez Blows Pierce Away

BERLIN: American Mary Joe Fernandez beat France's Mary Pierce 6-4, 6-2 in the final of the German Open here on Sunday. Pierce, seeded 12 and ranked 11, lost her way after opening out that 4-2 lead in the first set.

MOTORCYCLING

Doohan Supreme in Italy

MUGELLO, Italy: Australian Michael Doohan rediscovered his winning ways with a comprehensive victory in the Italian 500cc Grand Prix here on Sunday. Doohan, who struggled to cope with Honda teammate Alex Criville of Spain at the Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez on May 4, stylishly chalked up his third win of the season after triumphs in Malaysia and Japan. It was his fourth successive victory here.

GOLF

Jubilant Johansson Shoots Up Ryder Ratings

HANBURY, England: Sweden's Per-Ulrik Johansson went from 10th to third in the race for places in Europe's Ryder Cup side this September after victory in the English Open on Sunday. Johansson, a member of the victorious 1995 team, fired a closing 67 to beat compatriot Dennis Edlund — never before in the top 10 of a European Tour event — by two strokes to earn a cheque for 108,330 pounds (about 170,000 dollars).

Pioneer Cheng Wins China Open

BEIJING: Chinese golf pioneer Cheng Jun scored a five-stroke win in the 400,000-dollar China Open on Sunday — his first tournament victory. Cheng, one of China's new wave of up and coming professionals, hit a final round two-under-par 70 to keep a big gap between himself and Australia's Adrian Percey, who finished with a storming 67 at Beijing international golf club. The 28-year-old winner finished eight-under on 280. American Mike Cunning and South Korea's Mo Joong-Kyung tied for third place on two-under-par for the tournament.

Juventus and Real Move Closer

PARIS — World champions Juventus maintained their six-point lead over Parma with two games left in the Serie A after they fought out a controversial 1-1 draw in Turin on Sunday.

And in Spain, a penalty from Davor Suker gave Real Madrid a 1-0 win over Valladolid to put them closer to the title.

Second-placed Bayer Leverkusen beat second-from-bottom Sankt Pauli 3-0 on Saturday to pull back to one point from leaders Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga with two games left to play.

And in France, the race for second place and with it a berth in the Champions League, hotted up on Saturday when Paris Saint Germain slid to a 1-0 defeat against Marseille.

Galatasaray sealed the 1996/97 Turkish Football Championship this weekend with a 5-1 win over Mke Ankaragucu and Porto won the Portuguese championship with two goals a piece from Brazilian Jardel and Slovenian Zlatko Zahovic in a 4-0 win at Vitoria Guimaraes.

And should Feyenoord Rotterdam lose to Sparta Rotterdam on Monday, PSV Eindhoven, who thrashed FC Utrecht 6-1 on Saturday, will win the Dutch title.

Juventus had been looking for three points to wrap up the championship, leaving them free to concentrate on the build-up to their May 28 European Cup final showdown with Dortmund.

But they made matters difficult for themselves, handing their visitors the lead in bizarre fashion on 20 minutes.

Enrico Chiesa swung a corner and French international Zinedine Zidane sliced the ball into his own net in trying to clear.

Marcello Lippi's men quickly picked themselves up, however, and immediately went in search of the equalizer. It arrived in controversial fashion.

Zidane crossed into the area and Christian Vieri appeared to be obstructed by Fabio Cannavaro as he tried to latch onto the pass after 41 minutes.

The referee promptly pointed to the spot and Nicola Amoruso made no mistake.

Parma Coach Carlo Ancelotti was overly vehement in his protests and promptly ordered from the dugout.

Roy Hodgson's UEFA Cup finalists Inter Milan stay two points adrift of Parma, their rivals for second spot and a place in the Champions League, following a 1-1 draw at Roma.

Francesco Statuto put the hosts ahead on 53 minutes but Youri Djorkaeff snatched an equalizer with eight minutes left on the clock, following a one-two with England midfielder Paul Ince.

Sampdoria moved back into the top five by hammering fellow UEFA Cup hopefuls Udinese 4-0 in Genoa with Vincenzo Montella twice on target.

Bologna lost ground as they could only draw 0-0 at home to Vicenza.

Elsewhere, liberian striker George Weah scored twice for AC Milan in a 2-2 draw at the San Siro against Lazio, who closed the gap on Inter to two points, while Fiorentina's Oliveira grabbed a point in another 2-2 stalemate at Napoli.

(AFP)

TURIN, Italy (May 18): Parma's Lilian Thuram (R) attacks Christian Vieri of Juventus Turin during a Series A clash in Turin. The match was drawn 1-1 and Juventus maintained their six-point lead over Parma with two games left.

(AFP PHOTO)

Revenge for Corretja

ROME — Spaniard Alex Corretja won the Italian Open here on Sunday, when he scored a 7-5, 7-5, 6-3 revenge victory over Chile's Marcelo Rios.

Corretja, who lost in straight sets to Rios in last month's Monte Carlo Open final, took full advantage of the unforced errors which littered the Chilean's performance at the Foro Italico.

The Spanish 10th seed, who had beaten Goran Ivanisevic on Saturday, trailed 2-0 in the opening set before getting into his stride.

He made the decisive move by breaking back for 4-2 and serving out for 5-2 in the third set. But he needed two of his three match points as he raced into a 40-0 lead in the ninth game.

Corretja won his second clay court title of the year, after his success in Estoril, when Rios returned a powerful serve long.

(AFP)



ROME, Italy (May 18): Spain's Alex Corretja jubilates as he wins the final of the Italian Open Tennis Tournament, beating Chilean Marcelo Rios 7-5, 7-5, 6-3.

(AFP PHOTO)

Heat Is Next for Rested Bulls

CHICAGO — Though Phil Jackson believes his Chicago Bulls will defeat Miami in the Eastern Conference finals, he has been impressed with the Heat's heart and desire.

Miami became only the sixth team in NBA history to rally from a 3-1 series deficit, a comeback capped Sunday with a 101-90 victory over the New York Knicks. The Heat also had blown a 2-0 first-round lead to Orlando before winning the decisive fifth game.

"It's a do-or-die team," Jackson said. "Miami took second in the conference. They had a 61-win season. They've got to be real pleased with how they played this season and how they've revitalized themselves during the playoffs in which they've been down and at the doorstep a couple of times."

The Bulls-Heat series begins Tuesday night in Chicago.

Miami was one of only two teams to beat the Bulls twice this season, winning the last two meetings. But the Bulls swept the Heat out of last year's playoffs, winning by an average of 23 points, and Jackson is counting on that being a mental stumbling block for Miami.

Said Miami guard Tim Hardaway: "They rubbed it in. They got into our minds. They knew we weren't ready."

Chicago has been off since Tuesday, when it played its best game of the postseason in eliminating Atlanta. The Bulls also had a long layoff before taking on the Hawks and looked bad in splitting the first two games before winning three straight in impressive fashion.

"Being out so long, you lose some of that rhythm, the momentum that you've gathered. And you've got to start that all over again," Michael Jordan said. "But we'll be ready."

Jordan averaged 35 points against Miami this season, and Heat Coach Pat Riley never has beaten Jordan in the postseason. Riley coached the Knicks when they were eliminated by the Bulls in 1992 and 1993, and his Heat was swept last year. Riley's Knicks defeated Chicago in '94, when Jordan was playing baseball.

When New York took its big series lead over the Heat, the Bulls thought they'd be facing the Knicks. Miami's victory, however, doesn't force much of a game plan change for Chicago because the Heat and Knicks have similar ultra-aggressive styles.

The Bulls have frustrated Heat center Alonzo Mourning over the years, but have had a more difficult time containing Hardaway, the quick guard who struggled against New York until getting 38 in the series finale.

"They play very good defense and rely upon their defense, their spread (offense) and their 3-point shooting," Jackson said of the Heat, who were 11-of-24 from 3-point range Sunday. "They really play high-energy all through the game. They'll wear you out. And that's what they have to count on — their youth and their ability to defend."

(AP)

TEHRAN TIMES

MOSCOW, Russian Federation (May 18): Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his French counterpart Jacques Chirac hug as they meet for brief talks at Yeltsin's residence outside Moscow. Chirac made a short stop-over in Moscow on his way back home from China.

(AFP PHOTO)

Yeltsin: NATO Must Take Russia's Position Into Account

Compiled From Dispatches

Russia will reconsider its relations with NATO if the military alliance does not take Moscow's position into account, President Boris Yeltsin said Monday, ahead of signing a major accord with NATO.

Yeltsin, quoted by ITAR-TASS, praised the accord which is to be signed May 27 in Paris, saying it was not a "compromise, but a balanced result, in line with our interests and the alliance's interests."

However, if the North Atlantic Treaty Organization "begins to take decisions without taking Russia's position into account, Russia will reconsider its relations with the alliance," he warned.

Yeltsin said the key part of the accord, reached in Moscow last week, was NATO's assurances that it will not move nuclear weapons or military infrastructure into the East European countries set to join the alliance.

"The most important thing in this document was relations in the military sphere. These relations will be made so as not to create confrontation," Yeltsin said.

President Boris Yeltsin went onto the political offensive on Monday, throwing his weight behind his government's latest economic reform plans and moving to defuse communist opposition to last week's accord with NATO.

During Kremlin talks with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, First Deputy Premiers Anatoly Chubais and Boris Nemtsov and Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Sysuyev, Yeltsin gave his backing to a program of short-term economic measures.

"This is not a declaration, not just statistics, but rather a business document which addresses every problem facing each Russian and the country as a whole," Interfax news agency quoted Yeltsin as saying.

It gave no details of the plan, which is believed to aim at deepening market reforms and resolving Russia's acute budget crisis. Chernomyrdin and the other three ministers were scheduled to hold a joint news conference later in the day.

Chernomyrdin and Chubais will brief the communist-led State Duma Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday on the state of the economy in the first quarter and on their plan to slash spending by a fifth after a nearly 50 percent shortfall in tax revenue.

Military Lieutenants Stage Revolt Against Dostam

ISLAMABAD — Military commanders of Afghan Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostam staged a revolt Monday against Dostam at his stronghold in northern Afghanistan, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said.

The commanders rebelled in support of the Taleban militia which controls much of the country, said the Pakistan-based Private Information Service.

Dostam is based at the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

There was no independent confirmation of the report which said the revolt was led by Commander Abdul Malik, brother of Rasul Pehlawan, a commander assassinated in the northern region last year.

The AIP, which operates from the northwestern Pakistan city of Peshawar, did not give details.

Officials at the Taleban Embassy here said they were unaware of the reported rebellion. Dostam's representatives in Islamabad were not available for comment.

According to another report, Dostam lost control of a northwestern province to mutineers on Monday, but held onto his stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif, a Pakistan-based news service said. (AFP)

15 Imprisoned Members of Jihad Released

GAZA CITY — The Palestinian self-rule authority has released around 15 members of the Islamic group Jihad, a Jihad official said Monday.

The official, who refused to be named, said "a few, no more than 15" members of Jihad had been released in the past week.

A Palestinian security official, who also asked not to be identified, would not confirm the releases, but said anyone "against whom charges had not been proven would be freed."

Some 200 Islamic activists were arrested by Palestinian police in the wake of a bombing in Tel-Aviv which left three Israelis dead in March.

Since the attacks, Israel has accused Palestinian President Yasser Arafat of not doing enough to stop anti-Israeli attacks and demanded closer security cooperation as a condition for movement in the peace process.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

ISRAELI...

A UN officer in southern Lebanon witnessed the incident and said the smaller boat exploded and sank after being hit by cannon fire from the Israeli ship around 6:00 a.m. about two kilometers (1.6 miles) from Naqoura.

Monday's incident followed a flare-up in fighting in the buffer zone set up by Israel in the 1980s.

Three Israeli soldiers were killed and seven wounded on Thursday in an ambush near the buffer zone by the Islamic group Hezbollah.

Israeli forces had been on high alert for possible air and sea attacks in the area in recent days, Israeli military sources said.

According to another report, the Amal Movement led by the speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Nabih Berri claimed Monday to have sunk an Israeli patrol boat in an attack off the coast of southern Lebanon.

The Israeli military for its part claimed to have averted the attack, destroying a boat which tried to attack it off the southern Lebanese coast early Monday, killing one person.

In a statement released here, Amal said "one of our Mujahedeen carried out a martyrdom seeking attack at dawn against an Israeli patrol boat in territorial waters off the coast of southern Lebanon.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

IRAQI...

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) "ordered the PKK to evacuate the city. The PKK refused and there was a confrontation in the streets and the PKK was defeated," he said, asking not to be named.

The survivors fled toward Sulaymaniyeh, a city held by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) which is a KDP rival. The two groups control northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad.

Arbil hospital is "full of wounded," said the aid worker. But the city was calm on Monday, with electricity and water supplies unaffected.

The Turkish Army, whose incursion has not reached the Arbil region, launched a massive cross-border operation against the PKK in northern Iraq on Wednesday. It says 998 separatists have been killed.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

PRESIDENTIAL...

and political etiquette.

They maintain that a small pressure group is undermining the sound political atmosphere currently existing in the country through tearing up the posters of rival candidates, slandering them in public, publishing circulars at night including insults, defamation of character of candidates approved of by the Guardian Council and other acts that do not befit a Muslim.

However, it should be noted that the publicity campaign of the presidential candidates has overall had a sound and encouraging trend. The positive point is that the candidates themselves are not trying to sideline each other but instead are focusing on their own abilities and experience.

What distinguishes the seventh presidential election from the previous ones is the diversity of political outlooks present in the political scene of the country. In fact, every group is trying to air its views and canvass the public in support of its favorite candidate.

It should be acknowledged that some special political groupings are emerging. Thus, if the next president seeks to support a specific faction, that will definitely result in social and political rifts and, particularly in view of the make-up of the Parliament, even the executive will be faced with problems.

It is vital that upholding national interests, seeking revolutionary objectives, disseminating Islamic values and preserving the precious achievements of the Islamic Revolution and sacred defense be high on the agenda of the next president no matter who is elected from among the four candidates.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

TURKISH...

ern Iraq for a joint operation with Iraqi Kurdish allies against the separatist Turkish Kurds.

"Remarks by the military that Erbakan's government was excluded from the incursion process clearly indicate that his government has totally lost its power to rule the country," Elekdag said.

Elekdag, a former ambassador to Washington and the foreign ministry's top diplomat as secretary general in the 1980s, retired in 1989.

The powerful military has also excluded Erbakan's government from vital foreign policies in a move aimed at forcing him to quit, according to analysts.

In Baghdad on Monday, an official newspaper warned that Ankara had "crossed the red line" by launching an incursion into northern Iraq.

"The Turkish government is called upon to revise its policy which serves neither the security nor stability of the region," the *Ath-Thawra* newspaper added.

In the Turkish Parliament, the Islamist-led government comprising Erbakan's Welfare and conservative Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller's True Path Party faces an opposition-launched censure motion, probably next week.

Erbakan and his welfare aides have been silent regarding the Turkish incursion since it began last week.

According to another report a deputy from Turkey's ruling Islamist Welfare Party resigned from the party on Monday, cutting the troubled coalition's narrow majority in Parliament ahead of a censure motion, Anatolian news agency said.

The state-run agency said Welfare's Mahmut Sonmez, MP for the eastern town of Bingol, handed in his resignation to the office of the Parliament speaker, reducing the party's number of parliamentary seats to 159.

The move reduces to 280 the number of seats held by Welfare and its coalition partner, the conservative True Path Party (DYP), in the 550-member assembly.

Opposition parties on Friday submitted a censure motion against the government. Deputies are expected to hold an initial debate this week on whether to go ahead with a full censure motion.

The opposition would need 276 votes to topple the government in a final censure vote.

Prospects for the motion remain uncertain after the weekend resignation of a third DYP minister in three weeks from the government of Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, modern Turkey's first Islamist leader.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

MULTILATERAL...

Islamic Republic of Iran has so far implemented key infrastructural projects in the country through the assistance of domestic experts.

He added that Iran is ready to share its valuable experiences in development and construction with other countries.

As for transportation, the president said that due to huge investments in the sector, Iran has turned to a key transit highway which links regional countries.

By implementation of a project which is to link Iran's railway to Pakistan in the near future, more progress would be made in transportation sector, he added.

As for the future development programs, President Rafsanjani said that Iran thinks of a project which is to bridge southern Persian Gulf to the northern Caspian Sea.

Secretary General of ECO, thanked Tehran for hosting the meeting of subregional organizations and said that during the four-day meeting the participants discussed different topics. Development of human resources, poverty eradication, transportation, investment and commercial affairs were among other issued discussed during the meeting, he told the president.

The next meeting of Asian subregional organizations and ESCAP will be held in Nepal, the headquarters of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

(Contd From Pg. 1)

IRAN...

ries), the story of a man looking for a volunteer gravedigger before he commits suicide and veteran Japanese director Shojei Imamura for "Unagi" (the eel).

Crowds of fans who spent most of the day Sunday outside the festival palace massed to try to glimpse the stars as they mounted the steps to attend the prize-giving and watch the bow-out film show by Clint Eastman, "Absolute Power," a jokey tale where Eastman directs himself.

(Contd From Pg. 11)

SLEAZE...

mayor said.

Attacks on him were "a miserable political manoeuvre to distract attention from everything the socialists did for 14 years, their economic, social and moral failure, not to mention things like telephone tapping," Tiberi said.

Asked whether he felt abandoned by his own political friends, he said: "absolutely not, on the contrary. I have more support than ever."

"I feel calm and relaxed," the tense-looking mayor added before escaping back into the safety of city hall while his bodyguards barred access to journalists.

(REUTER)

(Contd From Pg.12)

THE POSITION...

4 Meanwhile, mix together the salad ingredients. Serve the chicken with the hot cooked rice and salad, garnished with mint.

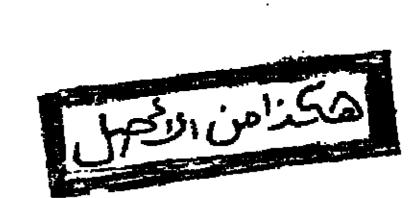
Selections per serving:
1 Bread, $\frac{1}{2}$ Fat, $2\frac{1}{2}$ Protein, $\frac{1}{2}$ Vegetable, 25 Optional Calories

Spicy Delights

Impress your guests with a little culinary worldly knowledge. Here's the low down on some of the more popular spices used in Indian cuisine.

Cumin Seeds

Derived from the parsley family, the small boat-shaped cumin seed has a very prominent aroma and pungent flavour. Because of its extreme spiciness it's advisable not to use it in very large doses. Especially popular in India, the cumin seed is mainly used for curry seasonings and savoury spice mixtures.



Nachagyn Bagabandi: From Mongolian Nomad to President



ULAN BATOR — Mongolian president elect Nachagyn Bagabandi was a Soviet-educated engineer, who broke free of his nomadic background to forge a political career that has taken him to top office at the age of only 47.

A thin and rather diminutive figure, with a rakish pencil moustache and a penchant for snappy suits, Bagabandi's popularity has been based on his skills as a public speaker and image as the defender of the little man.

"He's a rather formal man in person, but genuinely popular among Mongolians who see him as someone who cares about their welfare," said one Western diplomat here.

"They like his youth and, in Mongolian eyes, he is deemed to be quite a charismatic character despite his apparent unwillingness to smile," he added.

An economic conservative within his Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP), Bagabandi nevertheless managed to escape the "die-hard communist" tag attached to other party leaders after Mongolia emerged from the shadow of the former Soviet Union in 1990.

Born in 1950, in Zavhan Province in western Mongolia, to nomadic, cattle-breeding parents, Bagabandi's life was shaped by the country's then-status as a Soviet satellite.

After graduating from high school in 1968, he began a series of study stints in the former Soviet Union with four years at a technical engineering college in Leningrad.

Returning to Mongolia in 1972, he worked for four years in a beer and spirits factory in Ulan Bator, before leaving again for the Soviet Union — this time to Odessa — to study food technology.

His political career dates from 1980, when he became active in the MPRP, rising within the space of four years to the post of party committee department chief in the central Mongolian province of Tuv.

After a final stay in the Soviet Union, during which he received a doctorate in philisophical science from the Academy of Social Sciences in Moscow, Bagabandi returned to Mongolia for good.

From 1987, he enjoyed a meteoric rise through the party ranks, being elected to the MPRP central committe in Ulan Bator and then promoted to deputy head of the party in 1992.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the ensuing democratisation of Mongolian politics, Bagabandi was elected as an MPRP member of Parliament in the country's first free elections in 1992.

He was subsequently chosen as speaker of the house — a post held until 1996.

When the democratic coalition swept to power in parliamentary elections last June, Bagabandi was one of the 25 MPRP legislators who managed to return their seats in the 76-member house.

His popularity within the MPRP was confirmed by his election to the top post of chairman earlier this year, after which he was nominated as the party's candidate for president.

Bagabandi is married with two children, both of whom are currently studying abroad — an opportunity sought by many young Mongolians who complain that the offspring of political leaders have a monopoly on overseas travel.

Despite his formal, upright manner, he has often been praised for his abilities as a public speaker.

His performance in the unprecedented live television debates before Sunday's election was seen by many as showing up the less polished style of his main rival, incumbent President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat.

However, his slick image led to some concern within the party in the run-up to the election.

Several members of his campaign reportedly tried in vain to make him lose the moustache, which they felt lent him a rather sinister and untrustworthy image.

Bagabandi's inauguration as president is scheduled to take place on June 18 after he swept Sunday's polls winning 60.79 percent of the vote. (AFP)

Indonesia Campaign Heats Up, but No Change Seen

JAKARTA — Indonesia's election campaign has heated up as polling day approaches, but growing displays of dissent against the government are unlikely to threaten the ruling Golkar Party, political analysts said on Sunday.

The country's once-in-five-years general election, the only time when political activity is allowed, is usually a ritual affair that ends with President Suharto's Golkar Party being easily voted back to power.

But tens of thousands of anti-government partisans have crowded the streets of Jakarta and other towns in the run-up to the May 29 election, reflecting disillusionment on a scale not seen previously, analysts said.

Nominally, the crowds are expressing support for the Muslim-oriented United Development Party (PPP), one of two minority parties allowed to contest elections against Golkar, but they seem more driven by opposing the government than backing any group, the analysts said.

"There is a strong anti-government tone in the campaign," said independent analyst Arief Budiman. "Five years ago, it was still all right. Now, there is a high degree of intolerance, and it's anti-government."

The crowds on the streets have grown steadily as the campaign, which ends on May 23, reaches its climax. There have been sporadic clashes between PPP supporters and security forces and Golkar cadres, also unusual in the Indonesian context.

The third party in the contest, the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), is likely to be routed after its rupture last year when party chief Megawati Sukarnoputri was ousted by a government-backed faction.

Most loyalists of Megawati, the daughter of late founding President Sukarno, are now appearing in PPP colors, and analysts have said the country could be seeing the beginning of a two-party system.

Political scientist Juwono Sudarsono, deputy governor of the government's National Resilience Institute, said much of the dissent sprang from the economic development in Indonesia during Suharto's three decades in power.

"It's a form of protest and defiance against established authority and it's a reflection of the burden of success that the government has sustained over the past 30 years," Sudarsono said.

"Longevity brings its price in terms of general acceptance. It's a temporary catharsis on the part of the youth in general who are bored with the political system, who feel that it is not open enough to allow them some degree of symbolic participation in the political process."

But both Budiman and Sudarsono said the result of the election was not in doubt.

"I think the campaign has nothing to do with the result," Budiman said. "Golkar's traditional voters are basically those people who are afraid.

"Outside the big cities, people vote for Golkar not because of the excitement of the campaign or because they are impressed by the campaign but because they don't want to have problems."

Sudarsono said the dissent was a "temporary phenomenon" that had more to do with the campaign than the actual voting.

"I think the voting will generally be in favor of Golkar because most people seem to think that there is no viable alternative," he said.

"So although they are tired of it because it's been in power for 30 years, in the end they will resign themselves to the fact that none of the other two parties can present themselves as a real viable alternative to sustain and carry on the development program."

Golkar is seeking to push its share of the vote from the 125 million electorate over 70 percent from the 68 percent it won at the last polls in 1992. The PPP won 17 percent and the PDI 15 percent. (Reuter)

Astrology, War Strange Bedfellows in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO — Astrologers, not military officials, decided the exact time for launching Sri Lanka's latest offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels in the north, the *Sunday Times* newspaper said.

It said political and military leaders of Sri Lanka customarily consult astrologers before embarking on any major offensive.



"They were advised that Tuesday, May 13, was most suitable for warfare as it was under the influence of mars," the newspaper said.

"Hence the main thrust of operation *'Jaya Sikuru'* (Sure of Victory) began at the auspicious hour of 5.20 a.m. (2320 GMT) simultaneously from two key locations," it added.

Mars is considered to be the planet governing war and warriors.

Sri Lankan forces on Sunday captured the northern town of Nedunkeni held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) after fierce air and artillery attacks.

Military officials said 40 soldiers and more than 128 rebels had been killed in the fighting by Saturday. The LTTE say the army routinely exaggerates rebel casualties.

The LTTE are fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east. The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed in the war, now in its 14th year. The LTTE say the toll is higher. (Reuter)

India's Hindu Party is Betting on Mid-Term Polls

NEW DELHI — India's political picture is growing murkier with the main opposition Hindu Party expecting the government to tumble before year's end and dissent deepening within the ruling coalition.

The Congress Party, which reluctantly provides key support for Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's government, offers little succour to the ruling coalition, analysts said on Sunday.

The largest single group in parliament's Lower House, the Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is racing to position itself for mid-term elections it is convinced will be called later this year.

BJP President Lal Krishna Advani is set to begin a march across the nation later on Sunday that is a thinly veiled start to the party's campaign to woo more voters.

"Naturally the impact of it (the march) will go to build the image of the party," BJP Vice-President Jana Krishnamurthy told Reuters.

Opinion polls favor the BJP, which now holds 162 of the 545 seats in the Lok Sabha, in the event an election.

Advani Is Trying to Repeat History.

A similar march he led in 1991 saw a surge in the BJP's fortunes; the party grabbed 120 seats in elections that year, up from 86 in the previous parliament.

BJP leaders say they are convinced Gujral's center-left coalition is short-lived and will tumble by the year-end.

"We expect elections to take place any time between October and February," Krishnamurthy said.

A mid-term election could be the best shot at power for the BJP, whose hardline Hindu credentials are viewed with suspicion by the other parties in India's political spectrum.

"Elections are the only hope for the BJP," said Rasheed Talib, an independent political analyst.

The BJP's hopes rose after disaffection grew within Gujral's fractious Janata Dal Party, the largest in the ruling coalition, and corruption charges were levelled against its chief.

Federal police have sought permission to prosecute Laloo Prasad Yadav, the Janata Dal president who is also chief minister of the crime-ridden eastern state of Bihar, in connection with a $280 million animal-feed scandal.

The cracks in Gujral's government, which managed to get a trail-blazing budget for the 1997/98 (April-March) fiscal year approved by parliament last week, were embarrassingly evident last Friday when parliament adjourned until July.

Janata Dal lawmakers angrily tried to prevent Gujral from moving a bill seeking to provide a 33 percent quota for women in the Lower House and in state legislatures. The government later managed to move the bill for debate.

"The divisions within Janata Dal will only help to bring the elections closer," said Talib.

The waters have been muddied further by the entry of Sonia Gandhi, the Italian widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, into the Congress Party earlier this month.

Sonia Gandhi's emergence from six years of seclusion after her husband was assassinated by a Tamil suicide bomber could imply a move to reassert authority over the tired and weak party dominated for over four decades by the Nehru-Gandhi family.

That may not be welcome to a Congress leadership that has learnt to live without the family's charisma.

"The dissensions within the Congress are likely to be more embarrassing," said B.G. Verghese, a political analyst at the independent center for policy research.

All this ferment can only benefit the BJP, which probably has the most disciplined cadres in India's heaving political landscape.

Advani's march, cleverly pegged to the 50th anniversary of India's freedom from British colonial rule, aims to cash in on the stability factor. (Reuter)

Bald is Beautiful: Hairless Group Gains Three Heads

FONTAINEBLEAU, France — Three balding men Sunday swore on a billiard-ball to leave baldness unblemished, the oath of the International Association of the Bald, holding a congress here.

After a parade by the 40-odd bald and balding members of the group, the three men, hands on a billiard-ball, swore "not to attempt in any way to modify the hairstyle given by mother nature", thus becoming full members of the group.

"Our skulls gleam and shine," said Henri Braye, who founded the 250-member-strong group in the hopes of defending "baldness of all feathers". (AFP)

Argentine Radio Announcer Sets Guiness Record

BUENOS AIRES — Radio announcer Juan "Titin" Otero talked his way into the Guiness World Record Book by chatting for 144 hours and 20 minutes on-air, the news agency Noticias Argentinas reported.

Otero began his talkfest on May 11 and completed his feat a week later Saturday, resting only four hours off every day as the Guiness rules allow, the news agency reported.

The town's new celebrity went to a hospital for a general checkup after ending his marathon session. (AFP)

South Africa Recognizes Kabila as President

PRETORIA, South Africa — Zairian rebel leader Laurent Kabila claims he was forced to speed up plans to take the capital and declare himself president by dictator Mobutu Sese Seko's sudden departure, a top South African official said yesterday.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki spoke with reporters a day after flying to Kabila's headquarters in Lubumbashi at the rebel leader's request. After the meeting, Mbeki said South Africa was recognizing Kabila as Zaire's new president.

He said Kabila reported he will announce a new government tonight with broad-based participation by major political parties. The alliance has been told by Mobutu's party that it will cooperate.

"We think that this is the correct route to take," Mbeki said. "Kabila has pledged to have a government that has respect for free political activity and respect for human rights. The political and democratic rights of everyone ... will be guaranteed."

Mbeki said Zaire faces an enormous challenge and should not be expected to hold elections immediately. He pointed out that in South Africa, it took three years from the time the African National Congress began negotiations with the government in 1990 before elections were agreed upon.

Meanwhile, deposed dictator Mobutu Sese Seko was in Togo Monday, a day after fleeing rebels taking his jungle palace in northern Zaire, Togolese government sources reported.

The dictator was resting in a residence belonging to his old friend, Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema, the government officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. (AP)



LUBUMBASHI, Zaire (May 18): UN special envoy Mohamed Sahnoun arrives in the Zairean rebel stronghold of Lubumbashi for talks with self-proclaimed President Laurent Kabila. Sahnoun, who also represents the Organization of African Unity, told reporters at the airport of this southern city that the entry of Kabila's troops into Kinshasa with little bloodshed "indicated that the people of Zaire are happy" to have Kabila take over.

(AFP PHOTO)

Cyclone Batters Bangladesh Coast

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh — One man was killed and at least 50 were seriously injured as a severe cyclone battered the Bangladesh port city of Chittagong yesterday, early reports said.

Doctors at Chittagong Medical College Hospital said they feared many more casualties. "This was a major devastation and we think many more casualties will follow," one doctor said.

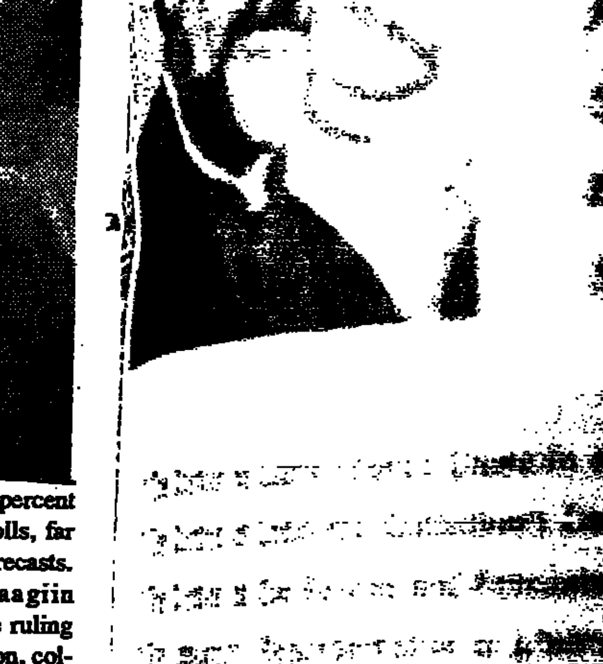
Officials in Chittagong said hundreds of houses were demolished and uprooted trees and power poles jammed roads.

"We fear more severe damage in Cox's Bazar and Teknaf areas along the southeastern coast," one Chittagong official told Reuters.

Two opposition legislators said more than 100,000 houses were damaged on the outskirts of Chittagong city alone.

Port officials said one ship broke anchor, another vessel was damaged and a large crane crashed on a jetty during the 200 kph (124 mph) storm. "These are only preliminary reports," one port official said. (Reuter)

Mongolia Elects Ex-Communist as New President



ULAN BATOR — Mongolia's former communist rulers dealt a crushing defeat to the ruling democrats in presidential polls when their Soviet-educated candidate trounced the incumbent, officials said on Monday.

"You can understand that (Natsagiin) Bagabandi has won," election committee chairman Lhagvasuren told reporters.

Preliminary results showed Bagabandi, 47, a Soviet-educated technocrat and candidate of the opposition Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP), had won a decisive 60.79 percent of the vote in Sunday's polls, far exceeding opinion poll forecasts.

President Punsalmaagiin Ochirbat, candidate of the ruling Democratic Union Coalition, collected 29.8 percent of the vote, the committee chairman said.

A third presidential candidate, Jambiin Gombojav, 56, a member of Parliament running on a Mongolian traditional United Party Ticket, took just 6.6 percent of the vote.

Final results were expected only after vote-counting was completed in rural corners of this vast land of steppes. Lhagvasuren said he expected little change in the final tally.

Coalition party officials swiftly conceded defeat overnight when it became clear that Ochirbat had lost.

Election officials said voter turnout was estimated at about 78.2 percent of the 1.1 million eligible voters. (Reuter)



Indonesia Quiet After Weekend Pre-Election Violence

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia — Calm returned yesterday to areas of Indonesia's main island of Java, which was hit by a fresh bout of pre-election violence between rival political groups over the weekend, the national police said.

"From the view of the national police, it's safe and under control," national police spokesman Brigadier-General Nurfaizi told Reuters in Jakarta.

Supporters of the ruling Golkar and the minority Muslim-oriented United Development Party (PPP) clashed in major centers on Java, including the capital Jakarta and the ancient city of Yogyakarta on the final weekend of campaigning before the May 29 elections.

The campaign ends on May 23, followed by a cooling-off period before the vote.

Despite the confrontations, with thousands of supporters of the two parties hurling stones and other projectiles at each other as police and troops moved to keep them apart, there were no immediate reports of casualties or arrests.

The only other party legally entitled to contest the election, the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), was campaigning on Java on Monday. But the party has been badly split since the ouster of its former leader Megawati Sukarnoputri last year and has been drawing mediocre support.

The three parties issued a statement on Sunday night saying they would halt all mass public rallies in Jakarta for the rest of the campaign. (Reuter)

Rwandan Attackers Kill 63 in Burundi

BUJUMBURA — Sixty-three people were killed and 12 wounded when armed Rwandan Hutus attacked camps in two communes in Burundi's north-western Cibitoke Province, state Burundi radio said on Monday.

It said Rwandan Hutu Interahamwe militiamen and troops from Rwanda's former army attacked two "regroupment camps" for Burundian peasants in Mugwi and Buganda communes on Sunday.

"They (Rwandans) attacked two regroupment camps and they killed 63 people and 12 have been wounded," the radio said. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

Burundi army spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Isaie Nibizi confirmed the attack on Sunday, but gave no further details.

Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army said last week it intercepted and killed 18 Rwandan guerrillas attempting to return to Rwanda from Zaire via Cibitoke, which divides eastern Zaire from southwest Rwanda. (Reuter)

Kim Dae-Jung Steps Up for S. Korean Election Race

SEOUL — Veteran South Korean opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung was elected by a landslide on Monday as his party's candidate to run in presidential polls against a ruling camp battered by a sleazy scandal.

Amid scenes of jubilation, the National Congress for New Politics gave a ringing endorsement to the firebrand politician, who will be making a record fourth bid for the presidency.

But while the ruling New Korea Party has yet to select its own nominee for the December vote and is in disarray as it grapples with a graft scandal, political analysts gave Kim little chance of pulling off victory.

Despite his credentials as a warrior in the country's long battle for democracy against military-backed rule, some analysts said the 74-year-old Kim represented to many voters an old generation of politicians stained equally by corruption.

President Kim's son, Kim Hyun-Chul, was arrested on Saturday for corruption in the latest chapter of a loans-for-kickbacks scandal surrounding the failure in January of Hanbo Steel Co.

Prosecutors on Monday demanded long jail terms for a former cabinet minister, three of Kim Young-Sam's most loyal ruling party allies and eight others standing trial in connection with the Hanbo affair.

Nevertheless, delegates at a National Congress convention stuck firmly with Kim and gave him a standing ovation after the election results were announced. He received 3,224 votes against 907 for the one candidate opposing him, Chung Dai-Chul. (Reuter)

Australia Honors Its Bravest Donkey

CANBERRA — A donkey named Murphy was on Monday posthumously decorated for bravery, 82 years after the four-legged hero carried wounded Australian soldiers to safety in the World War I battle at Gallipoli.

In a ceremony conducted by Australian Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer, an army donkey mascot called Simpson accepted the purple cross award for Murphy.

Stretcher-bearer John Kirkpatrick and his donkeys, the most famous being Murphy, became war heroes for carrying wounded soldiers to safety under Turkish fire at Gallipoli in 1915.

Fischer praised Kirkpatrick and his donkeys' heroism as one of the great feats of World War I.

"It's part of the rich tapestry of our military past and it's extremely important that we maintain that military heritage," said Fischer. (Reuter)

Sri Lanka Troops Fortify in Captured Rebel Areas

COLOMBO — Sri Lankan troops were fortifying positions in northern areas captured from separatist Tamil Tiger rebels after fierce fighting last week, the Defense Ministry said yesterday.

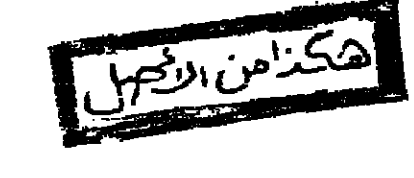
"Troops continue to consolidate in the captured areas of Nedunkeni and north of Omanthai," a ministry statement said.

Troops on the offensive wrestled control of Omanthai, 14 km (nine miles) north of Vavuniya and northeastern Nedunkeni, about 40 km (25 miles) northeast of Vavuniya, from Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels last week.

Military officials in the north told Reuters that security forces were building bunkers and forward defense lines north and northeast of government-held Vavuniya, 220 km (135 miles) north of the capital Colombo.

"More security personnel have been sent to these areas to secure the places taken by the military," one official said.

Intelligence and police sources said the battlefront was relatively quiet on Monday after last week's fierce fighting. (Reuter)





Better Future ... Promotion of ...

BY ELECTING HOJJATOLESLAM DR. [illegible] KHATAMI, THE BEST CANDIDATE, PIOUS AND COMMITTED COMPANION OF LATE IMAM (RA), THE ABLE SON OF AYATOLLAH SEYED RUHOLLAH KHATAMI, LATE REPRESENTATIVE OF VALI-E FAQIH AND YAZD FRIDAY PRAYER LEADER, AND THE OUTSTANDING CLERGYMAN IN THE RECENT STRUGGLES

* The Center of Labor Islamic Councils of Yazd Province
* The Center of Factories Islamic Associations of Yazd Province
* The Center of Laborers' Consumers Cooperatives of Yazd Province
* The Center of Laborers' Housing Cooperatives of Yazd Province
* The Center of the Retired and Pensioners of Yazd Province
* The Committee for Laborers' Treatment and Insurance
* The Laborers' Representative in Arbitration and Settlement Committees of Yazd Province

LABOR ISLAMIC COUNCILS OF COMPANIES OF YAZD PROVINCE

* Selkbaf Co.
* Gerdbaf Co.
* Bahartex Co.
* Electrode Co.
* Bastan Carpet Co.
* Yazd Propylene Co.
* Bar Industries Co.
* Yazd Tile Co.
* Derakhshan Co.
* Rahbar Pastry-Baking Co.
* Pelasti La'l Co.
* Afshar Co.
* Jonoub Co.
* Bouragh Mine Co.
* Zarrin Yazd Co.
* Flore Moquette Co.
* Sa'adat Nassajan Co.
* Yazd Steel Co.
* Simorgh Co. (Yazd Unit)
* Aqaveriskar Co.
* Vakil Co.
* Taban Co.
* Rokhsar Co.
* Maahbaf Co.
* Wool Industry Co.
* Morvarid Sanitary China Co.
* Ghadir Textiles Co.
* Sabet Propylene Co.
* Yazdbaf Co.
* Zob va Felezat Co.
* Khoshnakh Co.
* Meybod Tile Co.
* Yazdpich Co.
* Jam Lock Co.
* Mikh Sazi Co.
* Golshan Carpet Co.
* Shahid Ghandi Cables Co.
* Yazd Plaster Co.
* Gharb Wool Co.
* Kavir Tile Co.
* Yazd Faston Co.
* Risbaf Co.
* Goodarz Hospital
* Ardakan Wood and Metal Industries Co.
* Ehsan Meybod Tile Co.
* Aaliris Co.
* Shahid Rahnamoon Hospital
* Golnaz Yazd Co.
* Kasra Carpet Co.
* Shahed Yazd Co.
* Shadris Co.
* Pars Refractory Products Co.
* Ardakan Textiles Co.
* Yazdris Co.
* Mahdi China Co.
* Electro Kavir Co.
* Yazd Kisseh Co.
* Maahkar Co.
* Pasteurized Diary Co.
* Tire Industries Co.
* Meykhosh Producing Co.

* Banafsheh Textiles
* Nylonkar Co.
* Sanaz Carpet Co.
* Khoshrang Brick Co.
* Tahanzadeh Pastry-Baking Co.
* Arghavan Co.
* Mohrang Co.
* Sofalin-Pokht Co.
* Mehriz Golmehr Co.
* Yazdgol Co.
* Yazd Sorang Co.
* Yazd Motorcycle Co.
* Yazd Soap Co.
* Yazdnil Co.
* Nik Yazd Co.
* Meybod Mahgerd Co.
* Golchin Carpet Co.
* Foolad-Gozin Co.
* Yazdform Co.
* Satinbaf Co.

* شرکت سلکباف
* شرکت گردباف
* شرکت بهارتکس
* شرکت الکترود
* شرکت فرش باستان
* شرکت پروفیل یزد
* شرکت صنایع مفتولی
* شرکت کاشی یزد
* شرکت درخشان
* شرکت شیرینی سازی رهبر
* شرکت پلاستی لعل
* شرکت افشار
* شرکت جنوب
* شرکت معدن بورق
* شرکت زرین یزد
* شرکت فلورموکت
* شرکت سعادت نساجان
* شرکت فولاد یزد
* شرکت سیمرغ – واحد یزد
* شرکت آقاوریسکار
* شرکت وکیل
* شرکت تابان
* شرکت رخسار
* شرکت ماهباف
* شرکت صنعت پشم
* شرکت چینی بهداشتی مروارید
* شرکت نساجی غدیر
* شرکت پروفیل ثابت
* شرکت یزدباف
* شرکت ذوب و فلزات
* شرکت خوش نخ
* شرکت کاشی میبد
* شرکت یزد پیچ
* شرکت قفل جم
* شرکت میخسازی
* شرکت فرش گلشن
* شرکت صنایع آرامش
* شرکت کابلهای شهید قندی
* شرکت گچ یزد
* شرکت پشم غرب
* شرکت کاشی کویر
* شرکت یزدفاستون
* شرکت ریسباف
* بیمارستان گودرز
* شرکت صنایع چوب و فلز اردکان
* شرکت کاشی احسان میبد
* شرکت عالی ریس
* بیمارستان شهید رهنمون
* شرکت گلناز یزد
* شرکت فرش کسری
* شرکت شاهد یزد
* شرکت شادریس
* شرکت فرآورده های نسوز پارس
* شرکت نساجی اردکان
* شرکت یزدریس
* شرکت چینی مهدی
* شرکت الکتروکویر
* شرکت یزد کیسه
* شرکت ماهکار
* شرکت شیرپاستوریزه
* شرکت مجتمع صنایع لاستیک
* شرکت تولیدی میخوش

اسامی نمایندگان واحدهای تولیدی استان یزد:

* نساجی بنفشه
* شرکت نایلونکار
* شرکت فرش ساناز
* شرکت آجر خوشرنگ
* شرکت شیرینی سازی طحانزاده
* شرکت ارغوان
* شرکت موهرنگ
* شرکت سفالین پخت
* شرکت گلمهر مهریز
* شرکت یزدگل
* شرکت یزد سرنگ
* شرکت یزد موتورسیکلت
* شرکت صابون یزد
* شرکت یزدنیل
* شرکت نیک یزد
* شرکت مهگرد میبد
* شرکت فرش گلچین
* شرکت فولاد گزین
* شرکت یزدفرم
* شرکت ساطین باف



By: Ayatollah Murtada Mutahhari

PART 9

If the two logics, that of the earnest reformer and that of the zealous and gnostic lover are put together, the result will be the motivation of a *shahid*. Let us elucidate this point further.

When Imam Hussein (AS) decided to leave for Kufa, some prudent members of his family tried to dissuade him. Their argument was that his action was not logical. They were right in heir own way. It was not in conformity with their logic, which was the logic of the worldly wise. But Imam Hussein (AS) had a higher logic. His logic was that of a *shahid*, which is beyond the comprehension of ordinary people. Abdullah ibn Abbas was no small person. Mohammad ibn Hanafiyyah was not an ordinary man. But their logic was based on the consideration of personal interests and political gains. From their point of view, Imam Hussein's action was not discreet at all. Ibn Abbas made a proposal which was politically very sound. It is the usual practice of clever people to use others as their tools. Otherwise, they lose nothing. Ibn Abbas said to Imam Hussein (AS), "The people of Kufa have written to tell you that they are ready to fight for your cause. You should write back asking them to expel Yazid's officials form there. They will either do what you suggest or they won't. If they do, you can go there safety. If they are unable to do so, your position is not affected." The Imam did not listen to this advice. He made it plain that he was determined to proceed. Ibn Abbas said:

"You will be killed."

"So what?" replied the Imam.

"A man who goes somewhere knowing that he may be killed does not take his wife and children along with him."

"But I must."

The logic of a *shahid* is unique. It is beyond the comprehension of ordinary people. That is why the word *"shahid"* is encircled with a halo of sanctity. It occupies a remarkable position in the vocabulary of sacred and highly glorious words. It connotes something higher than the sense of a hero and a reformer. It cannot be replaced by any other word.

What does a *shahid* do? His function is not confined to resiting the enemy, and in the process, either striking a blow or receiving one. Had that been the case, we could say that when his blood is shed it is wasted. But at no time is the blood of a *shahid* wasted. It does not flow into the ground. Every drop of it is turned into hundreds of thousands of drops, nay into tons of blood, and is transfused into the body of his society. That is why the noble Prophet has said, "God does not like any drop more than the drop of blood shed in his way." *Shahadat* means the transfusion of blood into a society, especially into a society suffering from anemia. It is the *shahid* who infuses fresh blood into the veins of the society.

The distinctive characteristic of a *shahid* is that he charges the atmosphere with courage and zeal. He revives the spirit of valor and fortitude, courage and zeal, especially divine zeal, among the people who have lost it. That is why Islam is always in need of *shuhada*. The revival of courage and zeal is essential for the revival of a nation.

A scholar serves the society only through his knowledge. It is on account of his knowledge that his personality is amalgamated with the society, just as a drop of water is amalgamated with the sea. As a result of this amalgamation, a part of his personality, his thoughts and ideas become immortal. (To be Contd.)

لا تَغُرَّنَّكُمْ هذِهِ الدُّنيا فَانَّها تَقْطَعُ رَجاءَ مَنْ رَكَنَ اِلَيْها وَ تَخيبُ طَمَعَ مَنْ طَمِعَ فيها

Do not let this world delude you for it disappoints the one who trusts it and frustrates the hopes of those who covet it.

THE ASHURA UPRISING



The Master of Martyrs (AS) rose to strengthen Islam, to oppose cruelty, and to stand up against the empire of those days that were beyond the scope of modern day empires. In doing so he sacrificed his young children, his disciples and his own life and blood, he had no worldly things to give.

The Captives' Caravan

Part 2

At that time all the ladies of Kufa were vying with one another to secure the favor of Zainab and Kulsum, to invite them to their homes, to secure their blessings for the children. On every suspicious occasion, they used to be invited with the utmost respect and reverence. Now Zainab and Kulsum wondered what treatment they would get in this same city, where they had enjoyed the highest respect and honor; whether the ladies and children of Kufa would remember them; whether they would extend to them any sympathy in their sorrow and bereavement. On second thoughts they realized that this city had betrayed their cousin, Muslim Ibne Aqil, when he had gone over there as Imam Hussein's emissary and it would be futile for them to expect any consideration, any sympathy, any regard or respect from the people of this city, who had acquired a notoriety for the fickleness of their mind and who had become known as time-servers.

Very soon the courier, who had been sent to the court of Obeidullah Ibne Ziad, returned with the message of the Governor, saying that all preparations had been made and the captives should be marched through the main bazaars of the city. On receiving this order, the caravan marched on. The captives saw throngs of people standing on both sides of the roads. Ladies and children were standing in balconies and windows, to have a glimpse of the captives. The town-crier was heading the caravan, to announce: "O people of Kufa, we are bringing to you Zainab and Kulsum, grand-daughters of the Prophet and the other women and children of the family of Hussein, son of Ali. To those of you who do not know, we advise that Hussein, who had risen against Yazid and refused to recognize his authority as the rightful Khalif of the Muslim's has been defeated and killed with his followers on the battle-field of Karbala. The members of his family are now being taken to the court of Yazid, to face whatever punishment he wants to inflict on them. People of Kufa, this is the fate that awaits all those who question the authority of Yazid, and no person, who ties to raise his finger against the Khalif, will be spared."

Many of the listeners, who had gathered there, were thunderstruck by this announcement. There were not a few who recalled all the kindness that they had received from Zainab and Kulsum. They recollected that in times of their troubles and distress they had sought help from them and had willingly received it. They were surprised to see their plight; to see how miserable they were. They could well imagine their sufferings from their gaunt faces which bore marks of privations and afflictions. Many of them were crying on beholding their grief and sufferings but few had the courage to raise their voice against the forces of tyranny for fear that a similar fate might befall them.

When the caravan reached the main bazaar, there was such a big crowd that it became difficult to make way through it to the court of Obeidullah Ibne Ziad. The caravan halted for some time. It was almost noon and the sun was blazing with all its fury. The children of the Prophet's house, who had not had water during their march from Karbala to Kufa, were feeling extremely thirsty, not to talk of the pangs of hunger they were suffering. Many of them were crying with thirst and hunger. During this half, the soldiers of Yazid, who were accompanying them, were partaking of food and water which they were carrying with them, and relaxing in the shade. Sakina was repeatedly asking her aunt Zainab for a little water; but Zainab knew that it was useless to request the guards for any mercy, or even for a drop of water. She had full recollection of the heartlessness of these very soldiers who had, till the end, denied even a drop of water to each member of her family — even to Ali Asghar, till his last breath. She recollected how here brother had been slaughtered asking for just one sip of water.

Seeing the plight of Sakina, a lady who was standing in her balcony, rushed down from her house with a cup of water. Breaking the cordon which had been formed by the soldiers, she went to Sakina and offered to her the cool water she had in her hand. With gratitude, Sakina took it from her and wanted to drink it; but the lady, looking up at her, said, "I know that you are extremely thirsty and you appear to have suffered terribly. Before you drink this water, I request you to pray to God that He may protect my children from a fate such as has befallen you and the members of your family. Pray to God that my children may not be subjected to such miseries and tortures as you are suffering today."

Sakina complied with the request of the lady and she prayed to God, as she was asked by the lady to do. However, the words of the lady recalled to her the stark reality of her miserable plight. She remembered her not so long before, her every wish was being complied with, with the utmost promptitude; how there every word was taken as a command. She could not help shedding tears at what she had lost, what she had suffered and what she was still suffering. For some time she held the cup of water without drinking, because she could not control her sobs.

(To be Contd.)

IMAM HUSSEIN IBN ALI (AS)

PART 10

As for his social position, he was so matchless and unique, that Ibn Abbas, the revered companion of the Holy Prophet (S), used to hold the stirrup of his horse when he would mount it. Ibn Abbas was older than Imam Hussein (AS), but he did this out of his respect for him.

It is because of his glorious social status that the people would dismount from their horses and camels, on the way to Mecca to perform their pilgrimage, as long as he would travel on foot.

Another example reflecting his humble nature is that of his acceptance of an invitation to having food with the poor. He encountered a number of poor men. Having had their food they hastened to ask him to share with them. He dismounted from his horse saying, "Surely, Allah doesn't like the haughty." He partook of their food and said: "I have accepted your invitation. Won't you accept mine?"

"Certainly, we will," said they. He took them to his house and said to al-Rabab, his wife, "Bring us what you have been storing."

He did care for the people. He would always help them, even though, for the most part, they wouldn't recognize his legitimate right. Shu'aib bin abdul-Rahman is reported to have said: "On the way of al-Taf (battle of Karbala,' where in he was martyred) a mark was seen on the back of Hussein bin Ali (AS). Imam Zain al-Abideen (AS) (his eldest son, and the son who survived the battle) was asked about it. 'It is the trace,' he replied, 'of the bag, which he puts on his back (carrying food) to the house of the widows, orphans and the poor."

This fact attests to his remarkable humbleness, his care for the ummah, his awareness and deep feeling of his responsibility toward the people.

B. His Forgiveness of the Wrongdoers

This is another one of his key attributes. Once a young servant of his did something which deserved punishment. When Imam Hussein (AS) wanted to punish him, the servant said:

"Who curb their anger."

"Let him go", said the Imam.

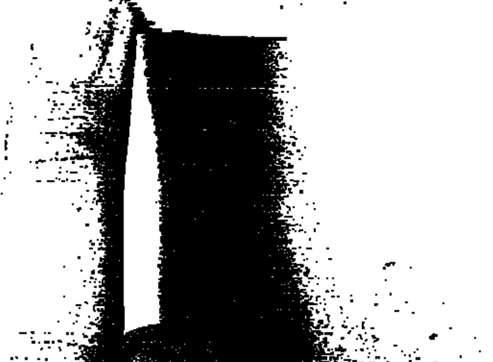
"And those who forgive their fellow-man," added the servant.

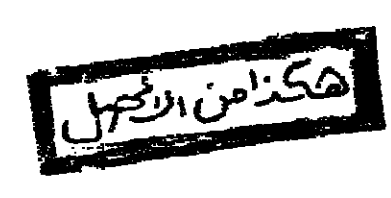
"I forgive you," said the Imam.

"And Allah loves the charitable, sir," said the servant.

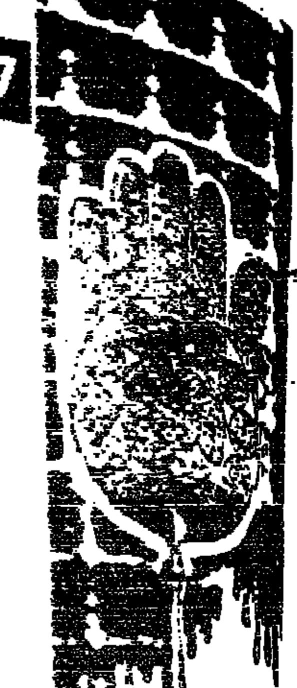
"I set you free, for the sake of Allah," said the Imam. "Henceforth I am going to give you the double of what I have been giving you."

These are only brief instances of the ethical side of the character of Imam Hussein (AS). **(To be Contd.)**





هكذا من الأصل





Can We Stay Young

Part II

Far more promising might be new research into another byproduct of cellular metabolism: glycosylation — or what cooks call browning. When foods such as turkey, bread and caramel are heated, proteins bind with sugars, causing the surface to darken and turn soft and sticky. In the 1970s biochemists hypothesized that the same reaction might occur in people suffering from diabetes. When sugar and proteins bond, they attract other proteins, which form a sticky, weblike network that could stiffen joints, block arteries and cloud clear tissues such as the lens of the eye, leading to cataracts. Diabetics suffer from all these ailments.

But so do the aged. Was it possible that as the cells of nondiabetics metabolize sugars, the same glycosylation might take place, only much slower? Studies seemed to say yes.

The gooey glycosylation residue has been given an appropriate acronym: AGE, for advanced glycosylation end products. Investigators at the Picower Institute for Medical Research in Manhasset, N.Y., are working on a drug, pimagedine, that acts as an AGE solvent by dissolving the connection between AGE and the proteins around it. Essentially it helps unstick what AGE gums up.

No-Fat Centenarians. An alternative to changing the way cells process nutrients is to give them less to process in the first place. Studies have shown that rats whose caloric intake is 30 to 40 percent lower than that of a control group tend to live up to 40 percent longer. For a man, that would translate to a spartan diet of just about 1500 calories a day — in exchange for 30 extra years of life.

Just how this business of swapping food for time works is not entirely clear, but George Roth, molecular physiologist with the National Institute on Aging in Bethesda, Md., has some ideas. When calories are restricted, Roth explains, body temperature drops about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit. Lower temperature means a less vigorous metabolism, which means less food is processed. "The animals switch from a growth mode to a survival mode," Roth says. "They get fewer calories, so they burn fewer. I think caloric restriction could take us well beyond a life-span of 80," he adds. "After all, you rarely see a fat centenarian."

In a nation of consumers for whom caloric belt-rightening can mean merely a smaller serving of french fries with their bacon cheeseburgers, it may be more realistic to imitate caloric restriction pharmacologically. "Essentially," explains Roth , "we'd use a pill to trick a cell into thinking less food is coming in."

But caloric reduction is essentially maintenance work: little more than patching holes in a sinking ship. What some researchers really want is to get down into the body's engine room — the genes themselves — and rebuild things from the boilers up. Remarkably, it appears there may be a way.

(Courtesy Reader's Digest)

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

THE MOLOCH LIZARD of Australia HAS SUCH SPONGY SKIN THAT WHEN ITS FEET GET WET, THE MOISTURE SPREADS THROUGHOUT ITS ENTIRE BODY!

IN Ancient China, JUDGES WORE TINTED SPECTACLES TO HIDE THEIR EYES and ANY REACTIONS TO EVIDENCE!

A PORTABLE BATHTUB INVENTED in 1904 by Adolf Herz CONSISTED of A BAG FILLED WITH WATER THAT FITTED AROUND THE BATHER'S NECK!

 9-6

U.S. Medical Group Urges Regular Screening for Colon Cancer

WASHINGTON — The largest U.S. association for cancer specialists issued new guidelines urging systematic and regular screenings for colon cancer.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) said regular screening for men and women age 50 or older should lead to a drop in the death rate from this type of cancer.

The group says colorectal cancer is the second deadliest form of cancer in the United States after lung cancer.

During a press conference, ACS president Myles Cunningham urged Congress to adopt a proposal that would allow medicare — the public health insurance program for the elderly — to cover the cost of regular screenings.

"The current situation with (colon cancer) is analogous to that of breast cancer a decade ago," he said. "It is time we began making similar progress in our fight against colorectal cancer."

ACS says it expects colon cancer will strike 131,000 people this year. Nearly 55,000 people will die from the disease.

(AFP)

THOUGHT

The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it.

John Ruskin

PRAYER

Noon............................13:01
Evening.........................20:29
Dawn (tomorrow)...............04:16
Sunrise (tomorrow)............05:56

News From the World of Medicine

Saving Preemies

According to a recent study, critically ill premature babies can be rescued from almost certain death by filling their underdeveloped lungs with an oxygen-rich liquid. Seven out of 13 such infants survived without serious lung damage, mental retardation or other ill effects common to preemies.

In infant respiratory distress syndrome (hyaline membrane disease), the lungs lack enough of a chemical that keeps the air sacs open so oxygen and carbon dioxide can be exchanged. The new treatment involves a substance called perflubron (LiquiVent), a clear liquid that easily dissolves oxygen and carbon dioxide.

Doctors trickle the liquid down the baby's breathing tube until it partly fills the lungs. The perflubron gently opens and stabilizes the collapsed air sacs. A respirator then replenishes the oxygen in the liquid as the oxygen moves through the air sacs into the bloodstream. The liquid then carries the carbon dioxide away.

The same technique is being tested on older children and adults with a variety of other life-threatening lung illnesses and injuries, including infections, near-drownings and smoke inhalation.

(Courtasy Reader's Digest)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1944 - Allied forces break through Hitler line in Italy in World War II.

1967 - More than 300 people perish in department store fire in Brussels, Belgium.

1974 - Thailand government resigns seven months after bring swept into power by student rebellion that overthrew military regime.

1982 - British troops attack Argentine-held Falkland Islands, with British military saying it has established beachhead at Port San Carlos.

1983 - Five people are injured and several arrested when demonstrators protesting Nazi storm troopers reunion in Bad Hersfeld, West Germany, clash with neo-Nazis and riot police.

1984 - In Bombay, India, troops battle thousands of rioters in Hindu-Muslim violence that claimed 108 lives.

1988 - Soviet Communist Party dismisses party leaders in Southern Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, where 32 people died in ethnic turmoil so far in 1988.

1989 - Students occupying Tiananmen Square reject government ultimatum to leave the square.

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS

H4	E1	E1	U1	X8	M3	E1		RACK 1
G2	I1	S1	P3	K5	N1	I1	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
S1	N1	E1	O1	H4	R1	E1		RACK 3
R1	A1	A1	E1	T1	L1	L1	Double Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 115-125

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). **JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW**

5-5-95

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

T1	A1	R1	M3	A1	C3	S1	RACK 1 =	64
P3	O1	D2	I1	U1	M3		RACK 2 =	11
R1	I1	B3	W4	O1	R1	T1	RACK 3 =	64
T1	H4	R1	O1	W4	S1		RACK 4 =	12
							JUDD'S TOTAL	151

PAR SCORE 95-105

5-4-95

HEALTH CAPSULES®

by Michael A. Petti, M.D.

DOES FREEZING FOOD KILL THE GERMS IN IT ?

FREEZING DOES NOT KILL GERMS. IT JUST KEEPS THEM FROM GROWING UNTIL THE FOOD IS THAWED.

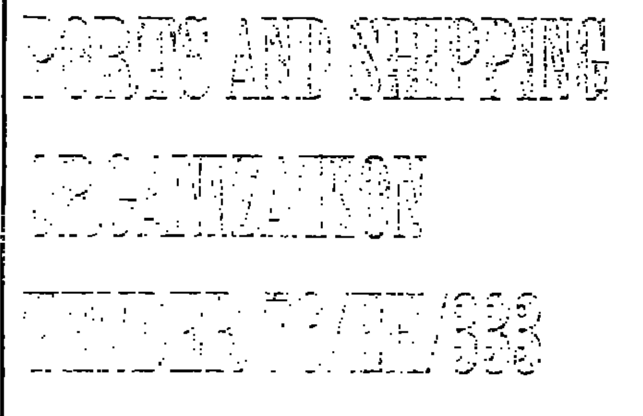
Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.



"BOY, THEY SURE DON'T MAKE WATERBEDS LIKE THEY USED TO."









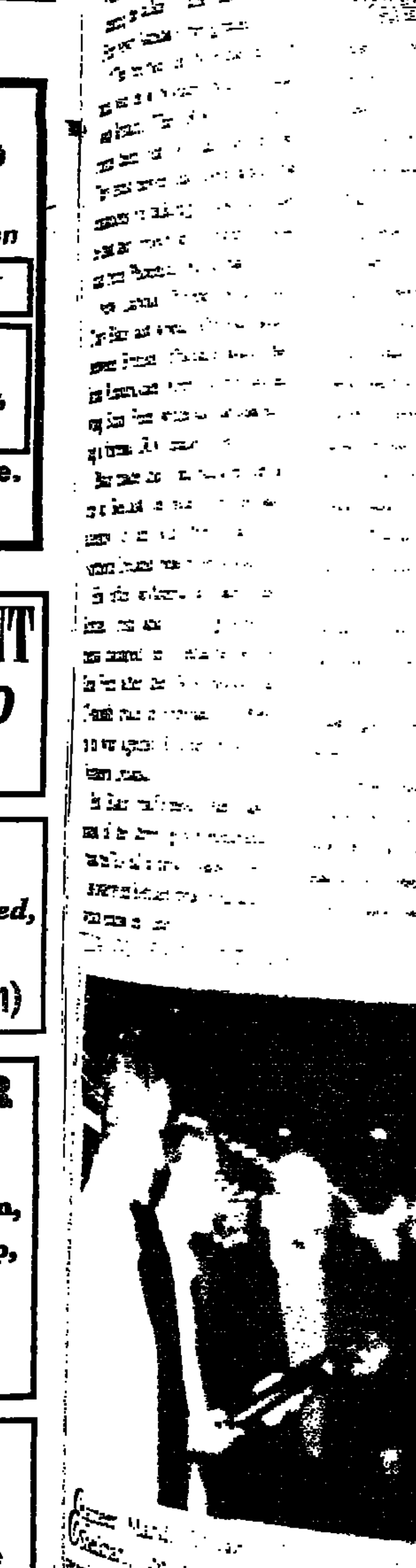
PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT P.S.O INTENDS TO TENDER THE PURCHASE OF: 3 UNITS OF 120 TONS MOBILE CRANES.

INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO RECEIVE THE TENDER DOCUMENTS FROM GROUND FLOOR, SECTION OF TECHNICAL & ENGINEERING DEPT. NO. 16, SHAHID SAIDI ALLEY, BETWEEN NEJATOLLAHI & HAFEZ, ENGHELAB AVE., TEHRAN-IRAN.

AGAINST A RECEIPT OF 50,000 RIALS PAID TO ACC. NO. 822 WITH CENTRAL BANK OF IRAN TOGETHER WITH A FORMAL REPRESENTATION LETTER ALL WORKING DAYS FROM 9 TO 11 A.M. BY THE DATE OF THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT.

ALL PROPOSALS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED LATEST BY 10 A.M. LOCAL TIME ON JULY 15, 1997.

ENVELOPES SHALL BE OPENED IN PRESENCE OF THE BIDDERS' REPRESENTATIVES ONE HOUR LATER ON THE SAME DAY.





هكذا من الأصل

Thatcher Opposed to Unconditional Sinn Fein Talks

WASHINGTON — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sent a blunt message of opposition on Sunday to the new Labour government over its decision to open talks with Northern Irish Republicans Sinn Fein without preconditions.

"I do not like it," Thatcher said in a U.S. television interview. "You do not talk to people who support violence without getting an undertaking from them that that violence will cease, at any rate during the talks," she said on the Fox News Sunday program.

"The people in Northern Ireland vote in a border poll to stay with Britain. The IRA try to terrorize them out of that decision. They must never succeed and the conditions for talking to them must be that they reject terrorism," she said from Phoenix, Arizona.

New Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair last week offered talks between British officials and the Irish Republican Army's political wing Sinn Fein without demanding a formal IRA cease-fire first.

Blair made the concession on a trip to Belfast on May 16 in an attempt to unlock the stalled Northern Ireland peace process.

His offer softened a ban the British, Irish and U.S. governments clamped on contacts with Sinn Fein after the IRA ended a 17-month truce in February 1996 in its war against British rule of Northern Ireland.

But Blair reaffirmed the demand of the three governments that the IRA call a new cease-fire in order to join Belfast peace talks, which resume on June 3.

The IRA is reported to be observing an informal truce and there



have been no IRA attacks since a sniper wounded a policewoman last month.

In a wide-ranging interview, Thatcher said her Conservative Party's crushing defeat in the May 1 general election was due partly to having converted Labour into an "electable" party.

"I think we did partially convert the Labour Party to the things we believed in. We shall now see how complete that conversion was and whether it was merely a conversion of convenience, or a genuine one," she said.

"People said you've been in power for 18 years; we think now it's time for a change. Whereas when the Labour Party was fully socialist we couldn't possibly have elected them, now they've changed we think they're electable."

Thatcher said it was understandable that the electorate wanted a change, but added it was hard to take after the Conservatives had delivered so much.

(Reuter)

New EU Treaty to Open Borders, Signal Peacekeeping Role

BRUSSELS — The European Union this week enters a final round of negotiations on a new treaty, with a deal looking increasingly likely to open borders from the English channel to the Mediterranean and give the EU a military role for the first time.

Foreign ministers from the 15 EU states meet in the Hague on Tuesday to assess a draft of the new treaty drawn up by the Union's Dutch presidency and identify areas where early agreement is possible.

The talks are also designed to ensure a smooth summit of EU leaders in the coastal resort of Noorwijk on Friday, the first to be attended by Britain's new Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

Labor's landslide victory in the May 1 election has been hailed across the continent as clearing the way for a new treaty to be finalized at the Amsterdam Summit on June 16-17.

Britain's previous conservative administration had stood alone in its across-the-board opposition to any further transfer of sovereignty to Brussels, refusing to accept any reduction in the number of policy areas where decisions require unanimity.

Every other EU state regards greater use of a system of weighted majority voting as vital to ensure the bloc does not become permanently paralysed as it membership grows with the entry of the new democracies of Eastern Europe over the next decade.



Labor has said it can accept majority voting at least four new areas: industry, research and development, regional policy and the environment.

This is less than Germany and the Benelux states would like but Britain now lines up with the most federalist states in backing increased powers for the European Parliament.

Labor has also ended Britain's opt out from EU social legislation, clearing the way for provisions for agreeing minimum standards to be included in the new treaty, and abandoned its predecessor's threat to link the negotiations to a row over fishing rights in British waters.

Brussels diplomats say the switch to a more constructive approach has helped secure agreement on special arrangements to allow Britain and Ireland to maintain their border controls.

Under the emerging pact, the Schengen accords, under which seven EU states have already abolished frontier controls, will be integrated into the treaty, with an opt-out for Britain and Ireland.

In parallel to the abolition of controls, Schengen requires signatories to apply common, tough standards on external border controls, to harmonise visa requirements and to share information on criminals through a common data base.

Britain and Ireland will be able to sign up, at any time, for these aspects of the system while maintaining frontier controls.

What is not yet clear is what the role of European institutions will be. France insists its right to reimpose controls in emergencies should not be subject to the jurisdiction of the European Court but the Netherlands regards a clear legal framework as a condition of ratifying the accord.

The new treaty will give the Union an effective military role for the first time by suggesting that peacekeeping and humanitarian operations could be carried out by the Western European Union (WEU) on behalf of the EU.

Crucially though, the ultimate decision about whether any mission actually happens, and other operational questions, will remain in the hands of the ten EU states that are full WEU members.

The non-members — the Neutrals Austria, Finland, Ireland and Sweden and Denmark — have sided with Britain in rejecting Franco-German proposals to commit the EU to eventual merger with the WEU.

An EU-WEU fusion also faces opposition from the U.S., which would be obliged to come to the rescue if any EU operation went badly wrong but would have had no say in the initial decision to act.

"We'll want to make sure we are in on the take-off not just the landing," a senior us official told AFP. Without U.S. agreement to grant the use of strategic NATO assets, any kind of WEU-EU military operation would be impossible.

(AFP)

Gilan Standard Institute Director General Pays a Visit to Faravari and Sakht Iran Vehicle Parts Co.



Engineer Mahdi Shoaei Sheikhani, the director general of Gilan Standard and Industrial Researches Department General, along with a number of its experts paid a visit to Faravari and Sakht Iran Vehicle Parts Company in industrial town of Rasht last April.

Engineer Shoaei in his visit expressing his gratitude to the company's management and personnel for their efforts, voiced the Standard Department General's readiness for offering training, lab equipment, library, expert-level services and the like to the company.

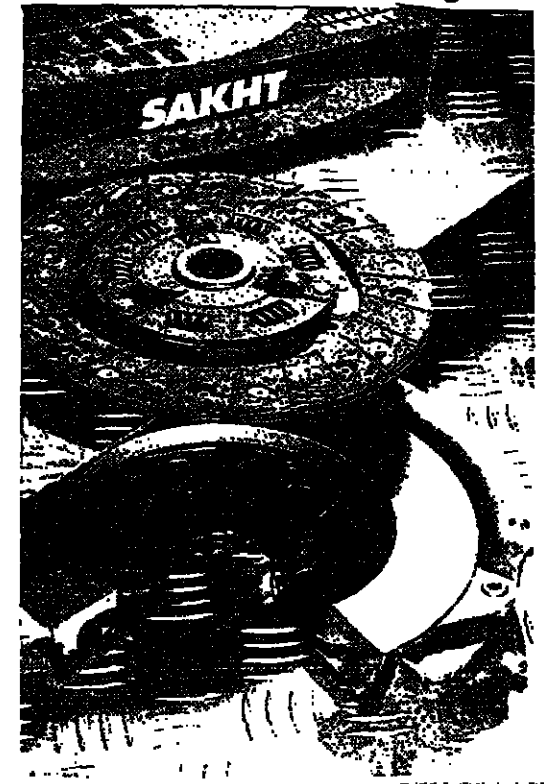
After the visit, Engineer Ebrat, the manager of Faravari and Sakht Iran Vehicle Parts Co., participating in an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times* expressed his appreciation to Engineer Shoaei and Gilan Standard Department General for their cooperation and then elaborated on the activities of the manufacturing unit. At first, he said, "Faravari and Sakht Iran Vehicle Parts Co. is the manufacturer of shock absorber and clutch" and then added, "The company has been run since 1994 and it has injected its products into the market since 1996. At present, different types of shock absorbers are manufactured by the company and according to the negotiations with some of the European countries, various kinds of heavy clutches due to the development of equipment and facilities will be manufactured in the near future." Engineer Ebrat also explained that both the running of the company and installation of machinery have been completely done by domestic experts and then revealed the company's production capacity as one million shock absorbers per year and also said that the abovementioned capacity can be increased to three million shock absorbers annually.

He further expressed hope that the unit will succeed to receive the ISO 9000 Certificate by the end of 1997.

Referring to the special attention paid by the share-holders of the company to quality control of the products, the manager of Faravari and Sakht Iran Vehicle Parts Co. said, "The company's products will be exported in the near future."

The company thanks to its most advanced and modern equipment has the capability to render services and meet the needs of Iranian auto-making companies and also the companies which require services regarding painting, plating, spare parts-making, casting, tool-making and lab.





Bus Tour Finds Different Eastern Attitudes to EU

MARIBOR, Slovenia — In the northern Slovenian town of Maribor a young woman student climbs onto a double decker bus. She does not ask for a destination, but to see the Maastricht Treaty on European Union.

The request may seem strange, but then this is no ordinary double decker bus.

Adorned in the blue and white stars of the rich Western Bloc and with multilingual rock music blaring out, the high-tech Eurobus — web sites, CD Roms and video screen on board — has come to tell Eastern Europeans what the EU has in store for them.

The student organizers of the Eurobus, which last week completed a four month tour of 30 Eastern European university cities spanning seven countries, stress their goal was not propaganda.

"We decided to put Europe on wheels to visit 30 cities, to visit the people who will be the future decision makers of Europe," Christian Mandl, one of the student organizers told Reuters in Maribor.

By the time the bus rumbled home it had been visited by 30,000 people, given out eight tons of brochures about the EU and driven 20,000 km (12,400 miles).

The tour, which took in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary, concludes as the European Commission puts the finishing touches to assessments on how prepared 10 Eastern European countries are to join the EU.

The Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have also applied for membership of the EU.

Student Funding

The students put up one tenth of the cost of the trip themselves, financing most of the rest from corporate sponsors, and are resentful at the lack of enthusiasm shown by the EU executive for their initiative. The commission only chipped in when they parked the bus illegally outside its Brussels headquarters.

"The result is that a few young people put their money in the programme. They lost money, and the commission does not care," Mandl said.

If the students who visited the bus from the seven countries showed a common interest, it lay in taking part in EU educational exchange programmes, he explained, although there was no wish to live permanently in the other EU countries.

"In 1989 when the Berlin Wall fell people were afraid of masses of people coming to the West. It's not true because people want to stay in their country and to contribute to the development of the country. The best positions for them are at home," he said.

If they demonstrated a common fear it was of losing their cultural identity and language once members of the giant EU bloc, he said.

But otherwise attitudes from country to country differed.

"We saw that the situation is very different from one country to another," Mandl said.

If students in Maribor hardly batted an eye at the sight of the bus, it is because after breaking free of the old Yugoslavia Slovenians are in no hurry to join another grouping, Slovenian organizer Barbara Kobale explained.

"In a way they understand that they have to open sooner or later, but they don't want to lose their identity or the freedom they gained," she told Reuters in Maribor.

The picture could not have been more different in the countries seen as least likely to make the EU's first enlargement wave early next century — Romania, Slovakia and Bulgaria.

Slovak Enthusiasm

In the Eastern Slovakian town of Kosice more than 1,000 people besieged the bus, begging not to be left out of the European club and alienated even further from their former partner the Czech Republic, widely expected to enter the EU in the first wave.

"I think that they are afraid of what will happen if the Czech Republic enters without Slovakia, that the EU will divide the Czech and Slovak people even more than before. They think that they should get in together," Mandl said.

The Czechs on the other hand seemed a little too confident of an easy entry. Unlike the other front runners the Poles, who even wanted to know about EU legislation on cucumbers, Czechs had little interest in the details of EU life.

"They are a bit too sure of the fact that they will get into the EU. They are convinced that they are the best country in the region," Mandl said.

In the Romanian town of Timisoara, students queued for hours to enter the bus, to browse the websites and databanks of EU legislation.

"People seemed to be very happy that Europe was coming to them. The question was — when will we become members," organizers explained.

"In Bulgaria the situation was similar. People are interested in the EU, even though they have other problems right now."

"Many people are frustrated and feel they are nobodies in the middle of nowhere as one person wrote in our guest book."

(Reuter)

Scientists Find Way to Burn Atomic Waste

LONDON — European scientists have designed a nuclear reactor that could safely dispose of radioactive waste in a breakthrough that may usher in an age of "safe" atomic energy, Britain's *Observer* newspaper reported on Sunday.

It said experiments carried out at Cern, the European particle physics laboratory in Geneva, had demonstrated the feasibility of safe, economical plants that could consume stockpiles of plutonium and other highly radioactive materials.

The paper said the proposed reactors were the brainchild of professor Carlo Rubbia, a Nobel Prize winner for physics and a former director-general of Cern.

Rubbia has been directing experiments for the past two years to demonstrate the feasibility of his ideas, which he will present to a full meeting of Cern's council next month, the *Observer* said.

"We have taken all sorts of crap churned out by reactors and put them into a mock-up of our machine," he told the paper. "Everything was broken down into harmless, low-level radioactive waste."

He said he was now preparing to help engineers to construct a prototype reactor, which would take at least five years.

An international consortium was set up earlier this year to consider building a prototype, which has been identified as a top priority for funding by Euratom, the atomic industry's European central body, the paper said.

If successful, Rubbia's reactors could deal with the hundreds of thousands of tons of highly radioactive waste products, including plutonium, that have been created by nuclear plants, it added.

This material is so dangerous that only storage in deep underground silos for thousands of years is now accepted as a way of dealing with it. By contrast, the new reactors, if successful, would eradicate the waste products instantly and permanently," the paper said.

(Reuter)

500 Chickens Die in Japan

TOKYO — Around 500 chickens were squashed to death when they panicked after hearing explosions from rocket engine tests near a poultry yard in northern Japan, local officials said Sunday.

Officials from the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA) carried out three experiments, using a total of 110 kilogrammes (242 pounds) of gunpowder in Tomakomai in Hokkaido on Friday.

The 250 chicks and 250 chickens were in a 500-square-meter (5,380-square-foot) henhouse located some seven kilometers (4.3 miles) away from the test center.

The owner of the poultry farm was quoted by local government officials as saying the chickens died after falling over like a row of dominoes.

NASDA officials said in Tokyo they had suspended tests at the center and were investigating the link between the explosion and the deaths.

(AFP)

From Dolly to Bunny: Cuba Tries to Match Scots Adult Mammal Cloning



HAVANA — Cuban scientists are out to match the landmark Scottish duplication of Dolly, easily the world's most famous sheep, with an adult rabbit cloning that might lead to revved-up animal and dairy yields.

"The experiment using this technique" made famous at Edinburgh's Roslin Institute "began just a short time ago," veterinarian and gene transfer expert Fidel Ovidio Castro Reboredo said in Sunday's weekly *Juventud Rebelde*.

Castro, a somewhat less famous Fidel Castro of no known relation to the president, works out of the Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering Center (CIGB) here.

"What we want is to demonstrate whether or not cloning animals in this way is doable," Castro Reboredo said. "If there is a (positive) outcome, we will try to clone animals of economic importance."

That could be of great significance in communist-ruled Cuba where providing the population with an affordable and nutritionally varied diet is an everyday challenge, and where short supplies of meat and milk are the rule.

The Cuban scientist was upbeat about chances for success.

"Aside from the strategic decision to replicate the experiment," he said, "we have all the technical infrastructure, laboratories ... and the staff, which is the toughest part.

"Since 1991 we (at the CIGB) and the center for animal improvement did have the technology for cloning from cow embryos. We did not follow up because we had other priorities at the time, as well as for economic reasons. It is a lot more costly to work with cows than with other animals," he said.

"Now we've reopened those old files and have created ... a group that is going to try to repeat the Scottish experiments on laboratory animals, rabbits in particular" with an eye toward possible food production improvements, Castro Reboredo said.

He shrugged off a report that New York state's Cornell University had drawn up a list of just 10 labs worldwide up to the cloning challenge — not including the Cubans.

"That statement strikes me as elitist, absolutist," Castro Reboredo said.

"Cloning really is not any more complex than gene transfers. And with that technique we already gave achieved five different lines of rabbits which possess different proteins, for example human antibodies in the milk of female rabbits on which gene transfers were done."

Castro Reboredo underscored that while cloning of humans "will be inevitable" as "technically there's little difference between cloning a sheep and a human being," he opposed any such efforts.

"It is not appropriate in humans because it fulfills no social role, except for somebody interested in recreating this story dreamed up by Aldous Huxley about proletarian slaves in his novel *Brave New World*," the scientist said.

"Today, nobody — at least nobody sensible — wants that."

(AFP)

Malaysia Proposes Common Laws for ASEAN Covering Media Technology

KUALA LUMPUR — Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has proposed Malaysia's cyberlaws be adopted by other ASEAN countries to enable the setting up of an international court for enforcement, reports said Sunday.

"Yes, we need to talk to other ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries so that we can provide a uniform set of laws," he was quoted as saying by the *Sunday Star*, an English-language newspaper here.

Mahathir said the court would be on the ASEAN agenda but it would be discussed at ministerial level before being presented to the leaders.

"The ministers will have to talk first so that the leaders will have a fair idea about it when they meet (during the informal summit to be held here in December," he said.

"But eventually the world will have to come to terms with this new technology which appears to have no respect for borders," Mahathir said.

Malaysia has proposed six cyberlaws, spelling out some of the legal obligations and rights of parties involved as well as the computer crimes punishable by law in Malaysia.

The six cyberlaws which would form the legal framework of Mahathir's ambitious Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) cover issues related to information distribution, the use of a fibre-optic network and preserving ownership of intellectual property.

They also spell out guarantees for open access to information providers and all other aspects of social and digital electronics.

The Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) would be the world's first multicultural content center for digital entertainment.

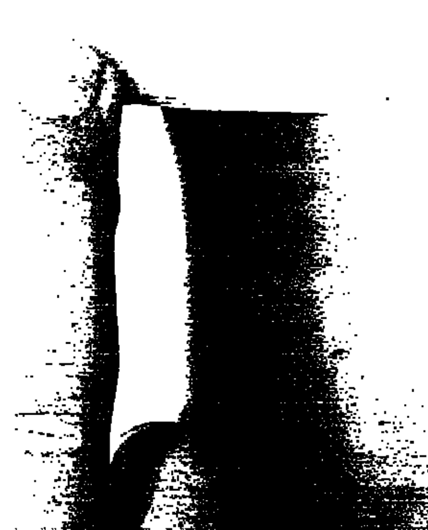
It is located in suburban Sepang, about 40 miles (64 kilometres) south of Kuala Lumpur, between Malaysia's new administrative capital Putrajaya and the new international airport, which is expected to be operational in 1998.

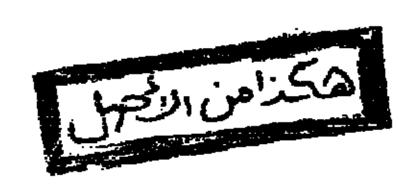
The MSC project, which Mahathir believes will turn Malaysia into a developed nation by 2020, is expected to cost the government between eight billion and 15 billion dollars.

Mahathir first proposed the need for an international cyber court when giving a lecture at Stanford University during his visit to the United States earlier this year.

ASEAN which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Malaysia is the 1997 regional grouping chairman.

(AFP)





PAGE 11 Oil, Ec

Sleaze

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Oil, Economics, and Geology

By: Gwynne Dyer

"We are overproducing, yes. But I have contacted everybody and I hope we will have cooperation."

This time, the man giving the sound-bite was Abdullah Salem al-Badri, president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and oil minister of Libya. Every OPEC president since the late 70s has voiced the same hope that the cartel might finally show some discipline. They have all been disappointed.

That is why crude oil prices, in real terms, are now lower than they were before the 1973 Middle East war that sent them soaring into the stratosphere. They have fallen by almost 30 percent since January — benchmark Brent crude oil now sells for just over $18 a barrel — and there is little chance that the OPEC meeting in Vietnam next month will turn the price decline around.

But geology and economics WILL turn it around, and soon, too. In the current issue of 'Nature', the respected British science journal, American geologist Craig Bond Hatfield concludes that "the world will probably reach its maximum oil production in the next 15 years." Prices should begin rising steeply well before that.

Hatfield, a professor at the University of Toledo, calculates that even if global oil consumption remained steady, worldwide oil production would go into absolute decline by 2036. But the current surge of economic growth in industrializing Third World countries mean their oil consumption is rising fast, so the remaining oil gets depleted much more quickly. The date when total production starts to fall moves up to 2011, only 14 years from now.

That's not when the world runs out of oil entirely, mind you. That date is probably more than a century ahead (though the time when the remaining oil is too valuable as a chemical feestock for any of it to be burned for fuel is probably much nearer than that). But 2011 is the date when commercial oil production, after rising steadily for 140 years, peaks, stalls, and starts back down.

The writing is already on the wall, for those who can read. Since 1985, each year's newly discovered oil reserves all around the world have amounted to only about 40 percent of that year's global oil consumption. So why are prices low and still falling? Because 'the market' is a stupid, short-sighted beast.

The market is very good at panicking in response to today's rumors. It is moderately good at guessing next month's prices. But it regards six-month futures as long-term, and five years ahead as a geological time-span.

Individual traders may be aware of what is going to happen to oil supplies in the relatively near future, but his knowledge has not yet affected the mob psychology of the market as a whole. So oil prices are historically low — and given the nature of OPEC, president cannot get them back up no matter how much he exhorts the members to practice self-discipline.

Looking for self-discipline from OPEC's members is like trying to get Coke from a cow. That cartel's collective interests are best served if everybody limits production to keep price up — but each individual member's interest is best served by raising production and increasing market share.

In a sense, the current low prices are largely OPEC's own fault. OPEC members produce much less than half of the world's oil: 27 million barrels per day out of a global total of 69 million bpd this year. But the cartel accounts for the great bulk of the oil that is traded internationally, and only the OPEC countries can raise and lower their production at will.

"In 1985, global oil production was 59.7 million barrels per day," Hatfield wrote in the 'Nature' article. "By 1995 it was more than 69 billion bpd." OPEC members accounted for almost all of the extra production, since the industrialized countries that have major oil reserves — Russia, the U.S., Britain, Canada — are already producing close to the limit of their capacity.

Yet OPEC's total revenues actually dropped in 1985-95, because almost every member cheated on its quota to make more money. Supply was usually a couple of million barrels per day ahead of demand, and price drifted steadily downward.

Indeed, if a UN embargo had not excluded Iraq's large oil production from the world market for the past five years, prices would be even lower than they are. And now Iraq is gradually returning to the market.

OPEC doesn't work very well because cartels rarely do. But within five yeas, the coming decline in oil production will have moved from the realm of specialist articles in scientific journals to mainstream common knowledge. And then, even before demand actually outruns supply, oil prices will really start to move up.

How high? Who knows? But an excess of just a couple of million barrels a day in the market has made the price per barrel tumble to historic lows. Would a shortage of a couple of million barrels, or even the certain knowledge of a coming shortfall, double the price? Triple it? Around 2002-2003, we are going to find out.

We will find out a number of other things at the same time. We will learn to what extent the current high rate of economic growth in so many Third World countries depends on low energy costs.

We will discover if the world's banking system is any better prepared to handle a new flood of 'petrodollars' than it was in the 70s, when its crude 'recycling' efforts (making huge loans to any country with a fixed address, just to get the money out the door again)were directly responsible for the debt crisis of the 80s.

And we will find out if 'geopolitics' is really more than a bunch of underemployed strategists looking for fat consultancy fees. They talk as though 'strategic regions' (i.e. oil-producing area) are pawns in some great-power game, not independent countries entitled to charge the going market rate for their products. They even hint that too high a price might be brought down by military force, if you have enough of it.

Sleaze Could Make Paris

PARIS - While France's parliamentary election is mainly a battle about jobs, economics and who should be prime minister, the hot issue in Paris is Sleaze.

Opinion pollsters say voter anger over a welter of party funding and Sleaze scandals could push half of the capital's constituencies, long the political bastion of President Jacques Chirac, into the arms of the socialist opposition.

One man has come to symbolise what critics say is wrong with the way Paris has been run: Jean Tiberi, a loyal if uncharismatic underling who took over from Chirac as mayor in 1995.

The 62-year-old politician of Corsican Ancestry is under judicial investigation over the alleged payment of a fictitious salary to his wife Xaviere by a local authority in the Paris region run by a fellow Gaullist.

Tiberi was President of the Paris Public Housing Authority during a period when, according to another current judicial probe, Chirac's Conservative Gaullist RPR Party received illicit funding through kickbacks on public housing contracts.

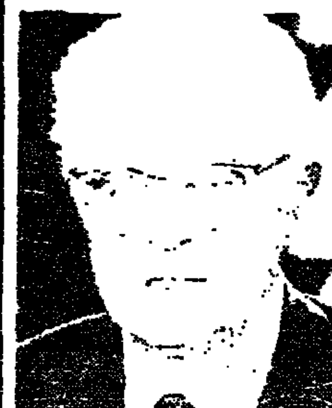
Dozens of building contractors and alleged intermediaries are under investigation in the case.

The satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaine* revealed in 1995 that Tiberi's two children were living in luxury, city-renovated council


JACQUES CHIRAC


ALAIN JUPPE


JACQUES TOUBON


LIONEL JOSPIN

flats although each owned an apartment on which they were collecting rent.

They have since moved out and the Paris public prosecutor has closed that case, ruling that Tiberi made no personal gain and therefore could not be prosecuted for conflict of interest.

Now *Le Canard Enchaine* says it has discovered that Tiberi supporters have over the years registered some 3,000 to 4,000 voters in his constituency who do not live there.

Tiberi dismissed the accusation, saying he did not need the votes. His socialist opponent, Lyne Cohen-Solal, has tried to challenge the electoral register in the courts, so far without success.

The Greens Party candidate, Yves Fremion Danet, has also filed a civil lawsuit against persons unknown for "electoral fraud" over the alleged inflation of the voting register, forcing the public prosecutor to open an investigation.

Polls predict losses for Gaullists in Paris

The RPR lost control of six of the city's 20 districts in 1995 municipal elections a few weeks after Chirac became president in a vote seen as a backlash against the granting of city-owned flats to dozens of political cronies.

Now polling institutes say it could lose up to 11 of the city's 21 parliamentary seats, possibly including the one held by Justice Minister Jacques Toubon, who sent a helicopter to scour the Himalayas for a holidaying public prosecutor last year in an unsuccessful bid to save the Tiberis from being probed.

Socialist Leader Lionel Jospin hit out at Sleaze in his main election rally in the capital, telling 5,000 young people: "Corruption, scandals and covert funding networks...have turned Paris since 1977 into the exclusive property of the few. The "city of light" has become the capital of the Opaque."

Chirac became mayor of Paris in 1977.

Few Gaullist candidates want to be seen with Tiberi, and the party has avoided staging public rallies in the capital at which Prime Minister Alain Juppe would have had to share a platform with the mayor, RPR sources said.

Facing a record 28 challengers in his constituency, the mayor has dodged the media while campaigning discreetly in the well-to-do fifth district around the Sorbonne University.

His press attache said journalists had been unfair to him and he did not want them chasing him through the bustling street markets of his latin quarter constituency.

Tiberi may hold onto his seat an opinion poll published last week suggested that Tiberi, a parliamentarian since 1968, would be forced into a runoff for the first time but would beat Cohen-Solal on the second round.

"I am proud to participate in the socialists' combat against the RPR system which has long been established in Paris," the socialist candidate told Reuters.

Asked how it felt to fight such a well-entrenched incumbent, she said: "This may sound surprising but it's not so difficult, because people are well informed and they have heard about the scandals involving elected officials in Paris."

A star-studded support committee headed by former justice minister and constitutional court President Robert Badinter, and including writers Jean Lacouture, Yves Simon and Tahar Ben Jelloun and film director Constantin Costa Gavras are campaigning for her.

But they face the weight of middle-class residents for whom Tiberi has been a caring mayor always anxious to do favours for his constituents.

"The Tiberi system is based on patronage. But that's true of many other members of Parliament," said a local insider.

Chirac has stood by tiberi despite widespread calls for his removal, acutely aware that his successor is carrying the can for the system the president put in place in 18 years as mayor.

Tiberi's only notable innovation in two years in office has been the creation of cycle lanes on the city's clogged streets and a plan, not yet implemented, to restrict traffic when air pollution exceeds safety limits.

Interviewed at a brisk walk after he visited a bread festival outside Paris city hall, Tiberi insisted his campaign was going normally and deflected questions about Sleaze.

"The socialists, who have done france so much harm, especially with scandals such as the Urba Affair, are ill placed to teach anyone lessons in morality," the

(Contd on Pg. 14)



Hijab & Women's Political Participation in Society

Part 4

Meantime, sociology sets forth democracy as the best form of government. Now, given these two considerations, how can the student and the youth be expected to accept force and avoid contacts with the opposite sex? As a result, as long as Islamic sciences, such as Islamic psychology, Islamic sociology, Islamic management, and Islamic economy are not taught at Iranian universities, the existing science and informatin and their results can be doubtfully considered without being immediately submitted to.

For this reason. "Hijab" has not as yet found its true place in our society. After the Revolution, Islamic "Hijab" became an important issue. It has turned from an individual and micro issue to social "Hijab" at the macro level. As a result, global arrogance does not intend to merely wipe out "Hijab". The case is even of greater momentum i.e., combat with Islamic "Hijab" is actually combat with Islamic foundations and Islamic government. Consequently, observing the "Hijab" (veil and Islamic scarf) appears exigent, considering its solid foundation, because observing such "Hijab" requires solid and powerful intellectual foundations.

Implementation of divine decrees by observing an adequate form of "Hijab" in public places, the universities, and the offices is exigent. It is recommended that culture be placed at the disposal of the policies and strategies of the Islamic society. This is because arrogance places man's dignity at the service of material purposes by increasing material desires and making the people more avid for such drives. The culture of such societies will also be at the service of promoting material drives and concerns. For instance, at M.I.T. 80% of the annual research is carried out for the Pentagon. That is the community's culture is at the service of politics, strategies, and military purposes which aim solely at devastating humanity.

Here a question is in point: Knowing that the Western culture is at the service of politics, we should consider whether or not our culture serves to promote man's sublimation and proceeds according to divine bases. If it is not so, all educational centers, especially the universities, which train the managers, should undergo a transformation. If such change and reform takes place, its effects will surely appear in regard to other social issues such as "Hijab" and or social ethics and behavior. The presence of women with Islamic "Hijab" in society and in the world is imperative for the fulfillment of the objectives of the Islamic system. If women decide to serve the system rather than to merely gain economic revenues and have variety in life, an optimal society will be ultimately established.

Type of "Hijab"

What kind of "Hijab" is appropriate for women who take part in social activities? In response, it should be said that the veil is surely the most appropriate form of "Hijab". Of course, the veil should not be viewed as a national uniform (such as the sari for the Hindus). The veil should rather be a symbol of the Islamic Revolution and the source of honor for the Iranians. As a result, in all political gatherings, and specifically in international conference and seminars, the veil shold be worn, as it signifies the Revolution and serves as the official covering of Iranian women. In the office, the villages, and rice paddies, the veil is not used as "Hijab". Its mode of use indicates its role. In society, the veil can be used as an official covering, but in the office, laboratory, classroom, Islamic scarf is more appropriate.

Of course, the type of the Hijab (veil, scarf, etc.) should not serve as principle but is among the elements which foster divine ethics and perfection. In our society, those who have made sacrifices for this divine system should serve as models. For this purpose, such people have authority in this society. It is hereby proposed that the behavioral characteristics of these women be studied and surveyed using a scientific method.

Also, a study should be conducted on the status quo, then, on this basis, seminars and meetings should be held to put forth logical and principal solutions. In addition, by carrying out field studies through sample collection, the said change, Islamic intellectual development, and religious tendencies of the society can be assessed. At present, too, the opportunity exists for presentation of new and infrastructural solutions. To this end, recourse can be made to the theological seminary, the university, the decrees of the late Leader of the Revolution, and the guidelines of the Eminent Leadership.

At present the mode of presentation and export of the Islamic Revolution is at the counter-piece. As you have witnessed, the Russian Revolution and the communist system faced a defeat. Soon, we will witness the collapse of imperialism and global arrogance (just as democracy has practically been defeated at present). Then all people will turn toward Islam and will call on Iran to provide them with the practical method of establishing an Islamic government. This is because the Islamic Republic of Iran is the administrator of the Islamic government in the world. At present, all people of the only world have cast eyes on us as experts and thinkers of this issue and await the implementation of Islamic decrees. As a consequence, we shoulder a grave responsibility.

At last, I hope that these topics lead to presentation of a practical plan to enforce the Islamic decrees and to make these decrees the foundations of social precepts.

(Courtesy Mahjubah)

The Position of Women According to the Qoran

By Martyr Morteza Mutahhari

How does Islam consider women? Does it view women on an equal footing with men, or in terms of human prestige or social position, inferior to men?

Islam's Special Philosophy on Family Rights:

Islam has a special philosophy regarding family rights of women and men which is contrary to what it was 14 centuries ago, or to what is now in the world of today. Islam does not maintain the same rights, the same duties, and the same punishment for men and women alike.

Why? Does Islam view women inferior to men, or does it have a special philosophy for it?

In Western literature we see that they consider Islamic tenets and precepts regarding marriage settlement: alimony, divorce, and polygamy as insulting to women. They say these precepts are in the interest of men. Islam is the religion of men; it does not give women the full human credit and rights. It is said that if Islam knew women on an equal footing with men, it would not have given men the right to divorce their wives; it would not consider the witness of two women to be equal to the witness of one man; husbands would not be considered the head of the family; women's inheritance would not have been one-half the inheritance of men; women are not valued in a marriage settlement; women would have been given economic and social independence, and would not have been dependents of men.





In brief, the West says that although Islam is a religion of equality, and it has kept the principle of equality elsewhere, it has not given men and women equal rights.

But the Holy Qur'an says: "And whoso does good works, whether male or female, and he or she is a believer, such will enter paradise and they will not be wronged the dint in a date-stone." (4:124)

"Whosoever does right, whether male or female, and is a believer, verily, We shall quicken with good life, and We shall pay them a recompense in proportion to the best of what they have done..." (16:97)

"Whosoever does an ill deed, he will be repaid the like thereof, while whosoever does right, whether male or female, and is a believer, such will enter the Garden, where they will be nourished without stint." (40:40)

Equality or Similarity

Islam has not ordered identical rights for men and women, but does not given men preference over women.

The Holy Qur'an says: "O mankind! Lo! We have created you male and female, and have made you nation and tribes that you may known one another. Lo! the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the best in conduct. Lo! Allah is Knower, Aware."

Position of Women in Islamic World View

The Qur'an is not a body of dry-as-dust laws. The Qur'an expalins laws, history, and exhorts man as to his conduct. The Qur'an mentions the creation of the universe, of man, of plants, and of animals, the vicissitudes in the lives of men, in their power, and of how they are exalted and abased.

The Qur'an is not a book of philosophy, but talks definitely about the universe, man and human societies, the salient points in philosophy. The Qur'an gives its followers a special attitude and world outlook.

The Qur'an says: "O mankind! Be careful of your duty to your Lord Who created you from a single soul, and from it created its mate, and from them has spread abroad a multitude of men and women." (4:1)

The Qur'an refutes the statements that Eve tempted Adam to eat the forbidden fruit, and that women do not enter Paradise, and cannot attain spiritual and divine perfection, or get nearer to God.

The Qur'an clearly says that other-worldly rewards as divine nearness have nothing to do with being of masculine or feminine gender. It is a reward given for the best conduct. The Qur'an makes mention of great men as well as of great women, the wives of Adam and Abraham and mothers of Moses and Jesus. It also makes mention of the wives of Noah and Lot as impious women.

In the history of Islam there are women saints such as Khadijah (AS) and Hazrat-e Zahra (AS). Hazrat-e Zahra was superior to her children, the innocent Imams, and to all prophets, save her father, the last of the prophets.

Islam makes no distinction between men and women in traveling towards God. Islam does not give identical rights to men and women. This is the difference between Islam and the West, which does not take into consideration the instinctive and natural differences between the two sexes. Out of self-interest, the West issued the bill of human rights which stipulates that men and women should have equal rights. The bill treats of those rights which are essential by nature to human prestige and cannot be negated or waived.

Human Prestige and Rights

Islam pays the greatest attention to human rights, liberty, and equality of men and women. The U.S. Bill of Rights is a philosophical text subject to analysis. It has its own strong and weak points. It pivots on the essential position and prestige of human beings.



But the West views man as a small cog in the economic machine of governments and organizations. In the West, man is no longer known as the noblest of all creatures. Religion, morality, philosophy, knowledge, literature, and the arts are all decorative facings for its economic infrastructure. Some even go so far as to say that the main stimulus in all human activities, with no room for spirituality and morality, then how can we speak of human prestige and defend it?

The Qur'an says: "Lo ! I am about to place a viceroy on the earth...." (2:30)

"O man, you are working toward your Lord, a work which you will meet (in His presence)." (84:6)

"And inspired it (with conscience of) what is wrong for it and what is right for it." (91:8)

"Surely, We created man of the best stature...." (95:4)

The sole objective of the West is to be found in its materialistic aims. The more materialistic a civilization becomes, the more civilized nations regress to immorality.

The Bill of Human Rights has been issued by the West, and the West itself tramples on its stipulations. Needless to say, in the circumstances, the only authority which remains for man of today is the Book of Creation.

The Rights of Women in the Qur'an: Marriage

Marriage is strongly recommended in Islam. The Prophet (S) says: "He who avoids marriage because of poverty suspects God."

Marriage is not only a covenant between man and woman, but it is a covenant between the married couple and their Lord to carry out their duties towards each other, and to respect family rights detailed in the Qur'an.

Economic Independence of Women

The Qur'an says: "Unto men a fortune from that which they have earned, and unto women a fortune from that which they have earned." (4:32)

"Unto the man of a family belongs an inheritance of that which parents and near kindred leave; and unto the women, a share of that which parents and near kindred leave." (4:7)

Inheritance

In Islam, women inherit half the amount men inherit from the estate of the deceased. If a marriage settlement is not paid, or if alimony payment ceases, it weakens the foundation of the family system and leads women to prostitution.

Divorce

Divorce has been and will be the greatest threat that causes families to be torn asunder. Islam opposes divorce, but if there is the danger of family disintegration, the dispute should be settled by arbitration.

The Qur'an says: "And if you fear a breach between them twain (man and wife), appoint an arbiter from his folk, and an aribter from her folk. If they desire amendment, Allah will make them of one mind." (4:35)

The Qur'an says: "When you have divorced women and they have reached their term, retain them in kindness, or release them in kindness. Do not retain them in suffering so that you would transgress (the limits). He who does that has wronged his soul." (2:231)

(Courtesy Mahjubah)

1 Mix the chicken with the vinegar and salt in a large bowl. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

2 Liquidize all the marinade ingredients until smooth. Drain the chicken, discarding the vinegar, and mix into the marinade, stirring well. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

3 Thread the chicken on to skewers and cook under a hot grill for about 15 minutes, turning frequently.

(Contd on Pg. 14)